11 policemen hunted for Dacer murders

STORY ON PAGE A2

Tancangco heaps blame on Benipayo

BY ROCKY NAZARENO, CYNTHIA BALANA AND ARMAND NOCUM

THE STORM at the Commission on Elections yesterday continued to rage, with Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco heaping blame on Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo for the bungled preparations for the May 14 polls.

TANCANGCO/ A4

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FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2001 ★★ 82 PAGES 8 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 159 ₱15

Pols never lose, they get cheated

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

THERE are losers, and there are bad losers.

Compare the way

POLS/ A19

HINDI AKO NATATALO! MASKI NOON PA! DINADAYA AKO!

Spy vs spy in Mindanao

Abadia's mission: Tail the Policarpio group wherever it goes

BY ARMAND NOCUM, JULIET JAVELLANA AND MARTIN MARFIL

IT'S "spy versus spy," and "a cat-and-mouse game in Mindanao" for the People Power Coalition (PPC) and the Puwersa ng Masa (PnM).

The administration PPC admitted yesterday that it had sent former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Lisandro Abadia to Mindanao to monitor the movements of former Estrada officials—Jimmy Policarpio, Horacio Morales and other PnM operatives.

Abadia's main job is to tail the Policarpio group wherever they go and find out who they talk to, according to PPC spokesperson Conrado Limcaoco. *(See related story on this page.)*

Abadia was sent on his mission after President Macapagal advised leaders of the coalition to be extra vigilant about electoral frauds.

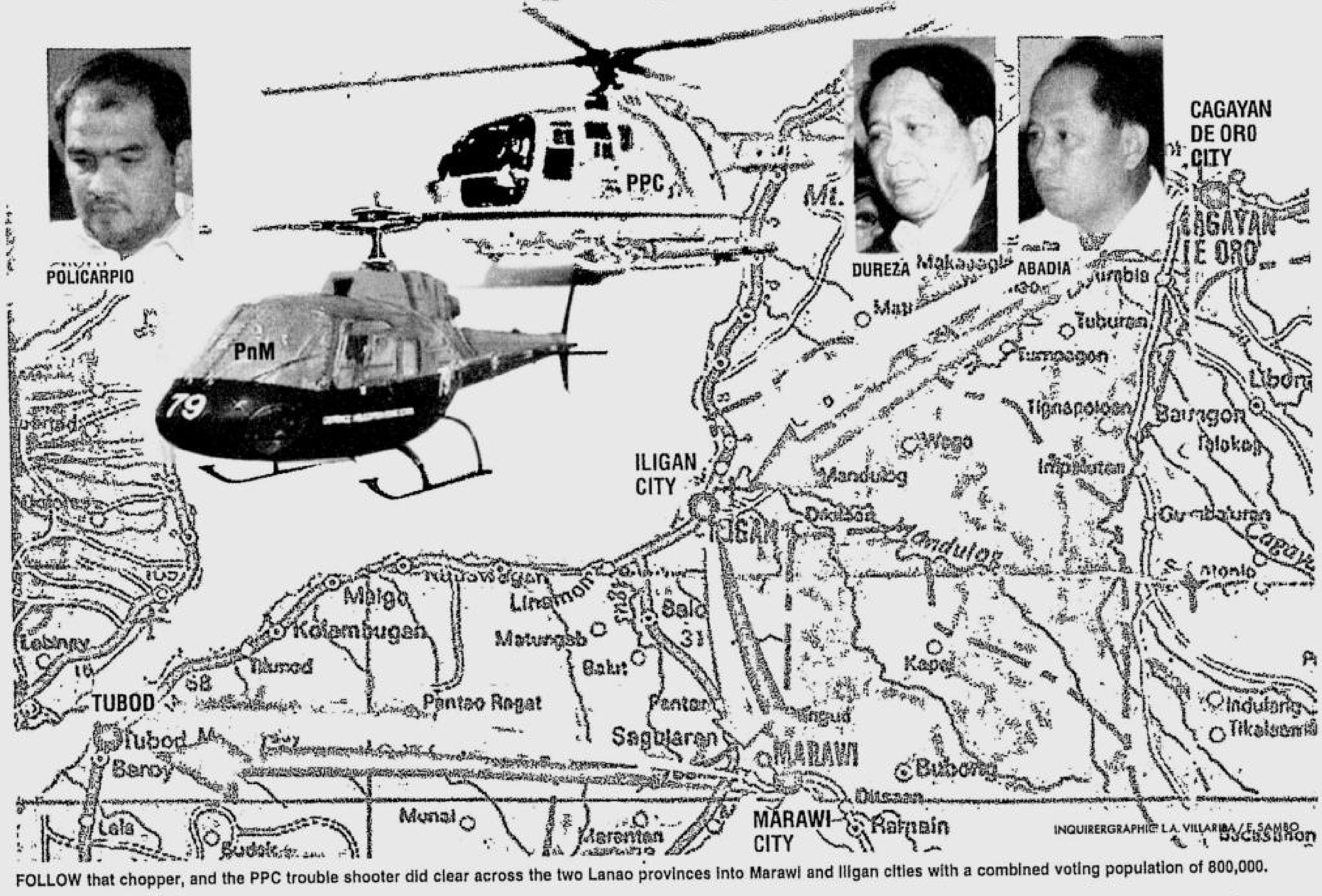
But Morales, the agrarian reform secretary in the Estrada Cabinet, denied any involvement in "partisan politics." In a press statement, Morales said that allegations that he bought votes and engaged in *dagdag-bawas* (add/subtract) operations "never happened" as he has returned to development work, "a mission since my student days."

Puwersa ng Masa spokesperson Crispin Remulla admitted that Policarpio and Morales are in Mindanao.

But he denied that they are there to help in the opposition's alleged cheating scheme.

"He's (Policarpio) on vacation, he's playing golf," said Remulla, who said Policarpio's wife

SPY/ A21



FOLLOW that chopper, and the PPC trouble shooter did clear across the two Lanao provinces into Marawi and Iligan cities with a combined voting population of 800,000.

Spoiled sandwiches down 17 at Namfrel

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA, N. BORDADORA AND G. LACUARTA

IN ANOTHER bizarre episode in the post-election saga, 17 volunteers of the National Movement for Free Elections at La Salle, Greenhills were rushed to the Cardinal Santos Medical Center late last night for food poisoning.

Sister Luz Emmanuel Soriano, who was in charge of food donations to Namfrel, said

SPOILED/ A7

NAMFREL

as of 10:30 p.m., May 17

No. of precincts: 63,831 (31.76%)

1	DE CASTRO	Ind.	5,214,006
2	FLAVIER	PPC	3,867,863
3	OSMEÑA	PPC	3,628,409
4	ANGARA	PnM	3,603,509
5	ARROYO	PPC	3,575,934
6	LACSON	PnM	3,534,501
7	DRILON	PPC	3,530,669
8	MAGSAYSAY	PPC	3,516,856
9	PANGILINAN	PPC	3,484,795
10	HONASAN	PnM	3,444,981
11	VILLAR	PPC	3,444,725
12	EJERCITO-ESTRADA	PnM	3,444,317
13	ENRILE	PnM	3,218,435
14	RECTO	PPC	3,210,529
15	DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO	PnM	3,193,574
16	PUNO	PnM	2,994,826
17	TAÑADA	PPC	2,690,168
18	MERCADO	PnM	2,597,761
19	PAGDANGANAN	PPC	2,262,279
20	MONSOD	PPC	2,220,587
21	HERRERA	PPC	2,158,583
22	MADRIGAL	PnM	1,780,468
23	RASUL	PnM	1,780,171
24	VINZONS-CHATO	PPC	1,565,175
25	YASAY	Ind.	1,563,261
26	TAMANO	PnM	1,182,641
27	CANOY	PnM	1,159,928
28	ADAZA	Ind.	269,544
29	MORATO	Ind.	238,456
30	NAVARRO	Ind.	235,112

PPC, PnM choppers race across Lanao skies

BY FROILAN GALLARDO
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MARAWI CITY—A trouble-shooter of the People Power Coalition and an operator of the Puwersa ng Masa figured in a helicopter chase Wednesday across two Lanao provinces where some poll officials are reportedly taking bribes in exchange for manipulating election results.

Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for Mindanao, was in a yellow BO105 helicopter when he chased Jaime Policarpio, former presidential legislative liaison office chief, of the PnM.

Policarpio, a native of Maigo, Lanao del Norte, was in a red and blue six-seat Ecuriel helicopter reportedly owned by JV Ejercito, a son of former President Joseph Estrada.

The chase brought the two to Marawi and Iligan cities and Tubod, Lanao del Norte, where the canvassing for the votes for the senatorial race was going on.

"I will engage him (Policarpio). They took off from Iligan and I also took off," Dureza told the INQUIRER.

He accused Policarpio of attempting to bribe local election officials to ensure the victory of PnM's senatorial candidates.

"I am not the one who is engaged in *dagdag-bawas* (vote padding and shaving) here. They are," Dureza said.

Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur, including Marawi and Iligan cities, have about 800,000 voters.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel had accused Lanao poll officials of taking bribes and manipulating the results of the

PPC/ A21

Punzalan died a happy man, says son

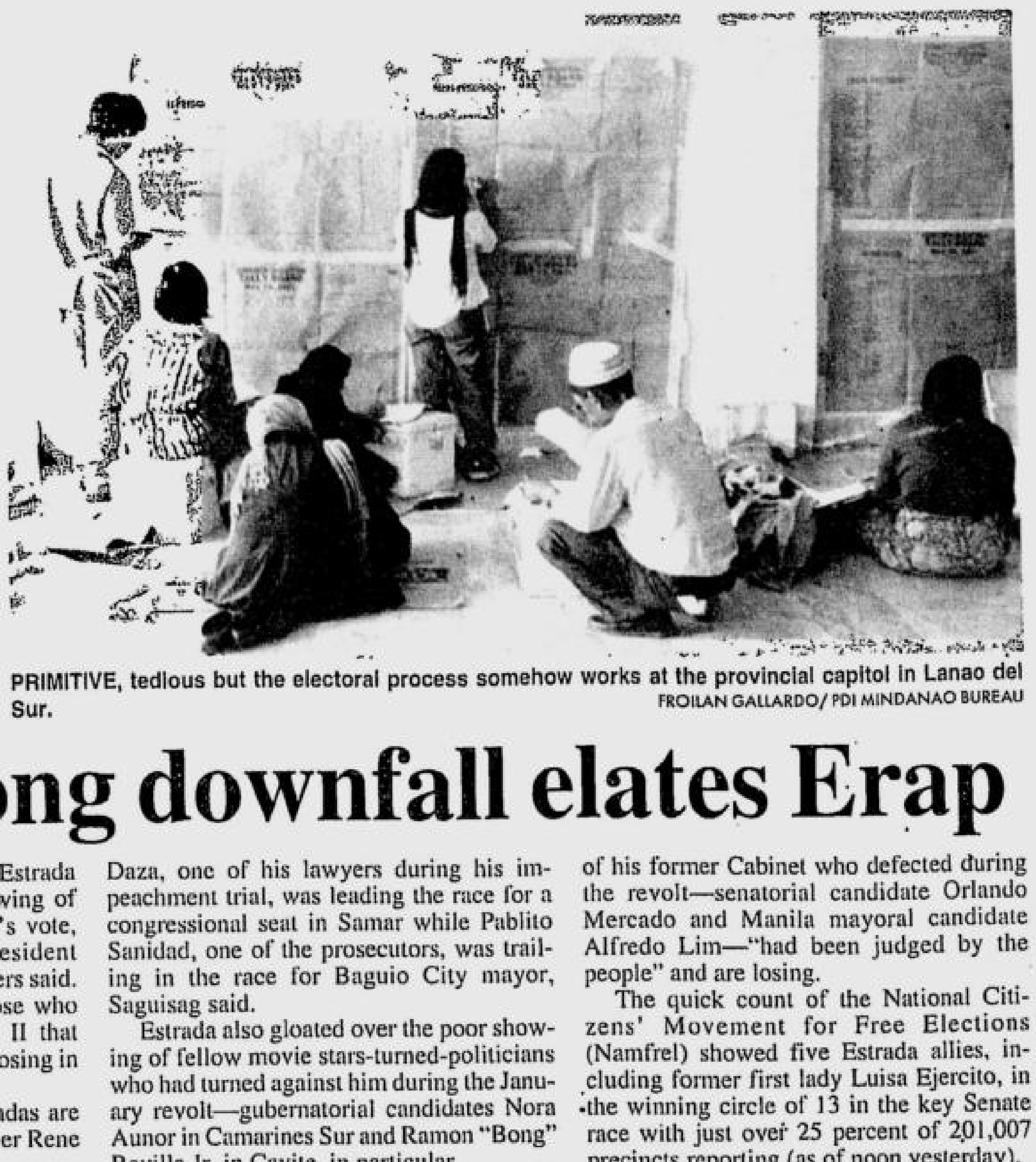
BY VOLT CONTRERAS

HIS killing underscored the violence of local politics, but Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan "died a happy man," his son said yesterday during necrological rites at the Batasang Pambansa complex.

Marcial Timothy Punzalan III said his father was glad to have "regained (his) good name" after the National Bureau of Investigation cleared him of alleged involvement in the illegal drug trade in Quezon.

The INQUIRER ran the NBI story on the front page of its May 7 issue. Five days later, communist

CONGRESSMAN/ A21



PRIMITIVE, tedious but the electoral process somehow works at the provincial capitol in Lanao del Sur.

FROILAN GALLARDO/ PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

JV wins big; Tessie O. daughter out

GOING by the final unofficial results of the National Movement for Free Elections, San Juan will continue to be an Estrada bailiwick, with JV Ejercito winning the mayor's seat by a landslide.

Ejercito, Joseph Estrada's only child by ex-starlet Guia Gomez, got 24,145 votes, twice as much as the 12,165 garnered by his closest rival Adolfo Sto. Domingo. There were three other contenders.

Ronaldo Zamora, who served as Estrada's executive secretary, won the congressional seat with 20,564 votes against former TV reporter Ronald Estella's 14,256 votes.

Incumbent Rep. Jose Mari

JV/ A20

Nora, Bong downfall elates Erap

JAILED former President Joseph Estrada feels vindicated by the strong showing of opposition candidates in this week's vote, calling it a "repudiation" of President Macapagal-Arroyo, one of his lawyers said.

And Estrada is gloating that those who supported the Edsa People Power II that ousted him in January appear to be losing in the political contest.

"Considering the odds, the Estradas are quite happy about the results," lawyer Rene Saguisag told reporters.

The disgraced leader was elated that Raul Daza, one of his lawyers during his impeachment trial, was leading the race for a congressional seat in Samar while Pablito Sanidad, one of the prosecutors, was trailing in the race for Baguio City mayor, Saguisag said.

Estrada also gloated over the poor showing of fellow movie stars-turned-politicians who had turned against him during the January revolt—gubernatorial candidates Nora Aunor in Camarines Sur and Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. in Cavite, in particular.

Estrada had also noted that two members of his former Cabinet who defected during the revolt—senatorial candidate Orlando Mercado and Manila mayoral candidate Alfredo Lim—"had been judged by the people" and are losing.

The quick count of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) showed five Estrada allies, including former first lady Luisa Ejercito, in the winning circle of 13 in the key Senate race with just over 25 percent of 201,007 precincts reporting (as of noon yesterday).

NORA/ A20

Estrada lawyers to court: Heed voters' voice

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

LAWYERS of deposed President Joseph Estrada yesterday departed from legalese and tried a new tack in persuading the Sandiganbayan to put their client under house arrest.

They are now asking the court

ERAP/ A20

Second FRONT PAGE

DALI !!!
HULIHIN NA!!!

Rocks roll down Mayon

LEGAZPI CITY—Rocks as big as a car rolled down the slopes of Mayon yesterday as the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) continued its watch of the restive volcano.

The rockfalls, Phivolcs said, occurred from Wednesday morning up to yesterday morning, which it said resulted from the detachment of pieces of lava from the summit lava dome.

Phivolcs said the Mayon seismic network detected seven low-frequency volcanic earthquakes and 22 episodes of rockfall-related tremors during the same period.

It attributed this to slow magma ascent through relatively open passageways beneath the summit.

"However, low seismic levels may belie the true status of the volcano because as the dome continues to grow, the greater the threat of lava avalanches and explosions becomes," the volcanology agency explained.

Alert level 3 remains in effect around the volcano.

Phivolcs said the six-kilometer-radius permanent danger zone should be considered a high-risk area and must remain evacuated at all times.

Cedric Daep, Albay Provincial Public Safety and Emergency Office chief, said almost 20,000 people living in the permanent danger zone around the volcano would be the first to be evacuated at the first sign of eruption.

Daep expressed fears they might experience extreme difficulties in case an eruption occurs at daytime. *Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

11 cops hunted for Dacer slays

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation is all set to track down and arrest 11 members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force who have been formally charged in the abduction and murder of PR man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Manuel Corbito.

Among the 11 is Supt. Glenn Dumlao, the highest-ranking police officer to be linked to the crime.

"We are going after them," said NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco, even as he revealed that the Manila Regional Trial Court has yet to issue arrest warrants for the 11.

He said he was confident that the Manila RTC would issue the warrants today.

The case was raffled off to Manila RTC Branch 41 presided over by Judge Rodolfo A. Ponferrada after the Department of Justice formally filed double murder charges against the 11 policemen and eight others, including two John Does, last Friday.

Ponferrada had begged for more time to study the case after the papers reached his office late in the day.

State witnesses

Originally, the NBI had sought to charge 22 suspects but three of them—civilians Alex Diloy and brothers Jimmy and William Lopez—were not indicted after the DOJ decided to use them as state witnesses.

The other PAOCTF suspects, aside from Dumlao, are Chief Insp. Boy Arnaldo and Chief Insp. Bobby Lancauan, SPO4 Boy Laduan, an SPO3 Villanueva, SPO1 Mario Sarmiento, SPO1 William Reed, an SPO3 Lacasandile, PO2 Thomas Sapitan Sarmiento, SPO1 Aguilar Nemeno and SPO4 Mariano Soberano.

With the NBI and DOJ's failure to implicate Teofilo Viña, sources said it's beginning to look like the masterminds of the crime will never be caught.

"We don't have a good case against him (Viña)," Samuel Ong, NBI national capital region chief, said despite reported claims by suspects Lopez and Diloy that it was Viña who called up four of the wanted PAOCTF agents right after the abduction.

Viña's alibi

Viña had also denied being in Manila when the kidnapping took place but a Philippine Airlines manifest showed he left Cebu, where he was based, for Manila on the afternoon of Nov. 23 and flew back to Cebu on the evening of the 24th. Dacer was abducted at about 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 24.

With the NBI investigation of the case reaching only up to Dumlao, sources said it was also doubtful former PAOCTF head and national police chief Panfilo Lacson would be implicated in the crime.

Lacson was supposedly closely associated with Viña and, at the very least, should have assumed command responsibility for his men's alleged involvement in the Dacer case, the same sources said.

Dacer and Corbito were kidnapped in broad daylight on the busy South Superhighway on the way to a luncheon with former President Fidel Ramos.

Witnesses said several armed men, one of them wearing a police uniform, forced the two into one of two vehicles that were used to box in Dacer's Revo.

The men were never heard from again until several weeks ago when Diloy and one of the Lopezes led authorities to a creek in Cavite beside which Dacer and Corbito were allegedly strangled and their bodies were burned.

Suspicion also fell on former President Joseph Estrada and one of his cronies, Dante Tan, after it was learned that Dacer may have had documents implicating the two in a massive stock manipulation that nearly brought down the Philippine Stock Exchange. *With Jerome Aning, JP Andaquig and Myla Torres*

Prince Andrew here for 3-day visit

By TJ Burgonio

PRINCE Andrew, the Duke of York, arrived yesterday afternoon for a three-day visit to promote stronger defense and trade relations between Britain and the Philippines.

The Duke and his six-man entourage flew in from Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, around 2 p.m. aboard a chartered aircraft. A former naval officer, he looked amused when he was welcomed and accorded planeside honors at the presidential hangar at the Villamor Air Base by officers of the Philippine Air Force, led by commanding general Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor.

Also on hand to welcome him were Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II, British Ambassador Alan Collins and Ambassador George Reyes.

The Duke's visit is also aimed at strengthening defense as well as trade and investment links between the two countries, a spokesperson of the British Embassy said.

"His visit fits very well because not only it is highlighting the very good friendship between Britain and the Philippines but it's also focusing on those two areas which are very relevant to the Duke's career," he said.

The Duke is taking over as chair of the British Trade International, the government organization responsible for the promotion of trade and investment overseas, late this year.

Palace call

The highlight of the Duke's visit is a courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang tonight.

This morning, the Duke he is scheduled to lay a wreath at the monument of national hero Jose Rizal and visit the Philippine Navy headquarters on Roxas Boulevard. In the afternoon, he will inspect the construction work on the new British school in Fort Bonifacio, Makati.

Tomorrow morning he will fly to Palawan for a tour at the Malampaya Deep Water Gas Power Project Structure. In the evening, he will leave for Kuala Lumpur.

The Duke's visit to the Philippines is part of his four-nation swing in Southeast Asia. So far, he has visited Brunei and Malaysia. From Kuala Lumpur, he will visit Singapore next.

Belmonte laments education neglect

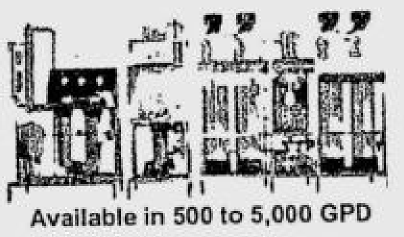
By G. Tolete and L. Briguera

THE GOVERNMENT'S failure to adequately support the country's higher education institutions is to blame for the country's shameful showing in the performance ranks of the colleges and universities in Asia.

Speaker Sonny Belmonte Jr. made the remark yesterday at the Higher Education Congress in Manila where he noted the government's meager allocation for the state universities and colleges in the country and the "neglect" of the quality of tertiary education.

Belmonte noted that even the best Philippine schools were "sadly lagging behind" in the ranks of the region's tertiary schools, a vast disappointment considering schools such as the University of the Philippines and the Ateneo de Manila University used to figure prominently in the race.

The two schools took the 48th and 72nd spots in Asia's top 100 universities, down several notches from their previous 32nd and 71st standing. The De La Salle University and the University of Santo Tomas gained ground, but could still only secure the 71st and 74th spots.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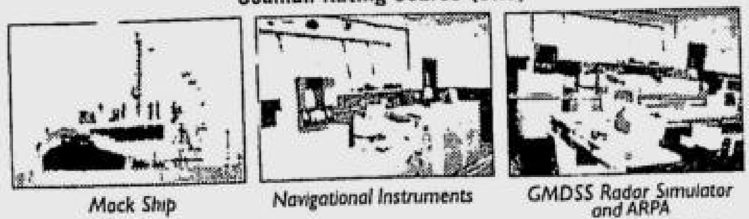
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PARTY-LIST PETITION

What's marginalized? High court is clueless

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

THE SUPREME Court is not in a position to determine which groups can run in party-list elections, since the Constitution itself is not clear on the criteria for marginalized or under-represented sectors of society.

This was the assertion of SC Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban during oral arguments yesterday on the petition of party-list group Bayan Muna to disqualify certain organizations from the party-list elections.

Represented by lawyer Neri Javier Colmenares, Bayan Muna had petitioned the SC to disqualify "pseudo" party-list groups like Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD), Bagong Bayani, JEEP, Creba and five major political parties.

These groups and others, Bayan Muna said, actually represent the interests of businessmen, real estate developers, *hacienderos* (big landowners) and supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Colmenares told the court that established political parties like the Nationalist People's Coalition, Lakas-NUCD-UMDP, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Partido ng Masang Pilipino and the Liberal Party already have congressmen sitting in the House of Representatives.

These congressmen were elected in regular polls, with ample financing. Thus, Bayan Muna argued, they cannot be considered marginalized or underrepresented.

The SC gave the parties mentioned in the petition five days to submit their comments.

SC Associate Justice Vicente Mendoza noted that European parliaments include Christian Democrats as regular members and as party-list representatives.

Bayan Muna, in this case, would be advocating "reverse discrimination" if it seeks to weed out political parties from the party-list system, Mendoza said.

Panganiban said the Constitution's wording on the party-list system "is scant by its intent" and only mentions sectors which "lack well-defined constituencies."

Panganiban pointed out that the phrase itself "is also not well-defined."

He said the constitutional provisions on the party-list system "are general statements that cannot be concretized or applied in a vacuum."

"There is a need, therefore, to establish the facts (about genuine marginalization). As it is now, we do not have those facts. Even if we (justices) agree with you, we cannot make a determination now (on which aspirants) to exclude," Panganiban said.

Assistant Solicitor General Magdangal de Leon, representing the Comelec, said he is open to the deferment of the proclamation of winning party-list groups until the disqualification issue is resolved.

In Davao City, the anti-communist party-list group National Alliance for Democracy (NAD) yesterday claimed that it lost thousands of votes to the Mamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) due to alleged anomalies in the counting.

Chito Gerbolingo, NAD secretary general, said the Board of Election Inspectors in several precincts in the city and in nearby provinces listed the votes cast for NAD to MAD, apparently due to (BEI's) "ignorance" over the NAD party as candidate for party-list. *With Jowel F. Canuday and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Gov't to raise political killings in peace talks

GOVERNMENT negotiators will raise the murder of candidates and campaign workers by communist guerillas in forthcoming peace talks, a member of the panel said yesterday.

Eduardo Ermita, who serves as President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on the peace process, said he would ask chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello to bring the matter up when he meets with the communist National Democratic Front next month.

"I told Bello to ask the NDF to tone down their violent activities short of declaring a ceasefire," Ermita said.

The NDF's armed wing, the New People's Army has been blamed for killing 23 of the 98 people slain in election-related violence during the run-up to the May 14 legislative and local elections.

The figure includes a congressman, two mayors and a gubernatorial candidate.

Ermita said such killings were difficult to prevent as the communists and the government had not called a ceasefire even after they had begun peace negotiations in Oslo last month. *AFP*

Meralco explains power outages on election day

THE MANILA Electric Company clarified yesterday that the power outages in some polling places during the May 14 elections were mostly caused by overload in the internal electric systems of the polling centers. And these occurred in only 1.19 percent of the polling centers in Meralco's franchise area.

Meralco issued the clarification in reaction to queries from the public and the media on why power failures occurred on Election Day.

In a press statement, Meralco said that while some outages were triggered by minor troubles in the utility's power lines, these were isolated cases that were attended to immediately by responding crews posted at strategic areas.

Meralco said it provided power to some 3,400 polling and canvassing centers within its franchise area, which covered the whole of Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Rizal, and some parts of Batangas, Laguna, Quezon, Pampanga, and Nueva Ecija.

The power utility said power supply in these areas were relatively stable.

Deputized by the Commission on Elections, Meralco said it undertook preventive measures and prepared contingency plans to ensure continuous power supply to critical areas such as the national canvassing center at the PICC, the Comelec headquarters, media and military establishments during the election and canvassing periods.

A report released on May 14 by Task Force Halalan, an inter-agency created to monitor and to ensure the continuous power supply during the polling and canvassing of votes, indicated that only 44 polling centers, or around 1.29 percent franchise-wide, suffered an emergency outage during election day.

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Tancangco heaps blame on Benipayo

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(From page A1)

In a radio interview, Tancangco said it was Benipayo and Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr. who had "roughed up arrangements (for the elections), which they saw when they first came here."

President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed the three men to their posts only in February.

"All the work we did for two years went for naught at the blink of an eye," said Tancangco, against whom the National Movement for Free Elections is planning graft and impeachment charges.

At a press conference last night in San Juan, Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion said that party-list groups Akbayan and Bayan Muna would serve as co-petitioners in the impeachment complaint to be filed against Tancangco, and that Namfrel lawyers were now documenting evidence and reviewing the legal grounds for the proceedings.

Concepcion said the two groups were also blaming Tancangco for the difficulties experienced by the teachers who were on poll duty.

"Did you hear what that woman said?" a fuming Concepcion said, referring to Tancangco's statements on TV Wednesday night and on radio yesterday morning. "*Sinungaling daw ako* (She called me a liar). My goodness!"

Concepcion also said Benipayo had promised to have Tancangco removed as chair of the Comelec committee on modernization as soon as the poll body completed its count of the votes in the senatorial election.

Tancangco is expected to oppose her removal as this would require an en banc resolution. Four of the seven commissioners, including herself, were appointed by then President Joseph Estrada.

Concepcion said Benipayo had assured Namfrel that computerized voting would be in place by 2003, in time for the 2004 elections.

He said the computerization should have taken place in time for Monday's polls, but that Tancangco's "incompetence" made it impossible.

Benipayo, however, is under fire from the Alliance of Concerned Teachers, which assailed him for the non-payment of some 700,000 teachers who served as election inspectors in the polling precincts.

ACT deputy secretary general Raymund Villanueva said none of the teachers had been paid the daily allowance of P900 as of yesterday.

"We have received reports that the payrolls are being rushed. But these are only payrolls. There's no cash yet," Villanueva said.

Hard questions

Also yesterday, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel said the chamber would summon Comelec officials to explain their alleged failure to ensure clean and orderly elections.

"There will be hard questions, and hard answers are expected because we have seen so many problems that they should explain," Pimentel said over radio dzMM.

He had earlier complained about the alleged disappearance of voters' names and the existence of "double registrants" in Cagayan de Oro City.

Among the issues rocking the Comelec is the Precinct Mapping Project (PMP), a brainchild of Benipayo's predecessor Harriet Demetriou and Tancangco for the May 14 polls, which the poll body dropped in favor of the 1998 Computerized Voters List (CVL).

Benipayo had said that the Comelec decided to use the 1998 CVL for this year's elections because the PMP was "heavily incomplete."

But Tancangco had maintained that the PMP would have eliminated such problems as "flying" voters and names missing from the voters' lists.

"This is not simply a management problem. No matter how hard you work in the preparations, if there is an effort to destroy (what you worked for), everything will explode," Tancangco said yesterday in Filipino.

Thus, she said, she was "very, very pessimistic" about future elections.

"Our problems are accumulated, never alleviated, because we cannot dissociate the administration of elections from the political upheavals that happen before elections," Tancangco said.

Asked if Philippine elections would ever be modernized, she curtly said: "I hope so, but (it will not happen) in my lifetime."

Demetriou

In another interview, Demetriou took exception to comments made by Benipayo and former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod that she was to blame for the foul-ups in Monday's polls.

She said that precinct mapping was provided for and required by the Continuing Registration Act of 1997 "to cleanse the registration list and purify the registration process," and that it would have "eliminated flying voters and ghost precincts."

"That is the reason our legislators put (precinct mapping in the law) in 1997," she said.

To Monsod's earlier contention that precinct mapping, a computerized process, was a "waste of time," Demetriou said: "I beg to disagree because no less than the law itself said that."

She also debunked claims made by Benipayo that the Comelec during her term did not prepare well for Monday's elections.

She furnished reporters a six-page "transition report," which stated that, among others, the inventory of available election supplies and paraphernalia had been accomplished as of Jan. 29.

"In my term as Comelec chair, I followed two objectives—first, to purify the registration process and eliminate flying voters, multiple registrants and ghost precincts, and second, to purchase counting machines," Demetriou said.

Pimentel said it was time for the government to confront head-on the issue of the massive fraud that tainted almost every election.

But he pointed out that the Comelec should not get all the blame "for failing to ensure clean and honest elections," and that the government should move to clip the powers of political warlords.

"Some warlords still think they control everybody in their localities," Pimentel noted, adding that they had the money "to buy voters."

Pimentel also said the Senate would act with haste to hear impeachment cases against errant Comelec officials should the House of Representatives initiate these.

Fire them

In Bacolod City, Negros Occidental Gov. Rafael Coscolluela joined calls for the impeachment of Comelec officials.

He said all of the commissioners should be fired because the Comelec was "poorly prepared (for), negligent, inconsistent and (showed) bias" during the May 14 elections.

Coscolluela also blamed the Comelec for the alleged widespread fraud in Negros Occidental and the delay in the canvassing of votes there.

He expressed fears that the continued delay in the canvassing could result in *dagdag-bawas*, or the padding and shaving of votes.

But in Davao City, former Comelec Commissioner Dario Rama defended the present set of commissioners, saying they had done nothing that would constitute an "impeachable offense."

Rama, who served as commissioner from 1986 to 1993, also said that the impeachment process would be very tedious, and that he doubted whether there was sufficient evidence to pin down any of the officials concerned.

"I think, at this time, it's a wrong move to impeach any of the members of the commission. You don't have the facts. Why will you espouse (it)?" he said. ***With reports from Gerald G. Lacuarta and Mae Lorraine Rafols in Manila; Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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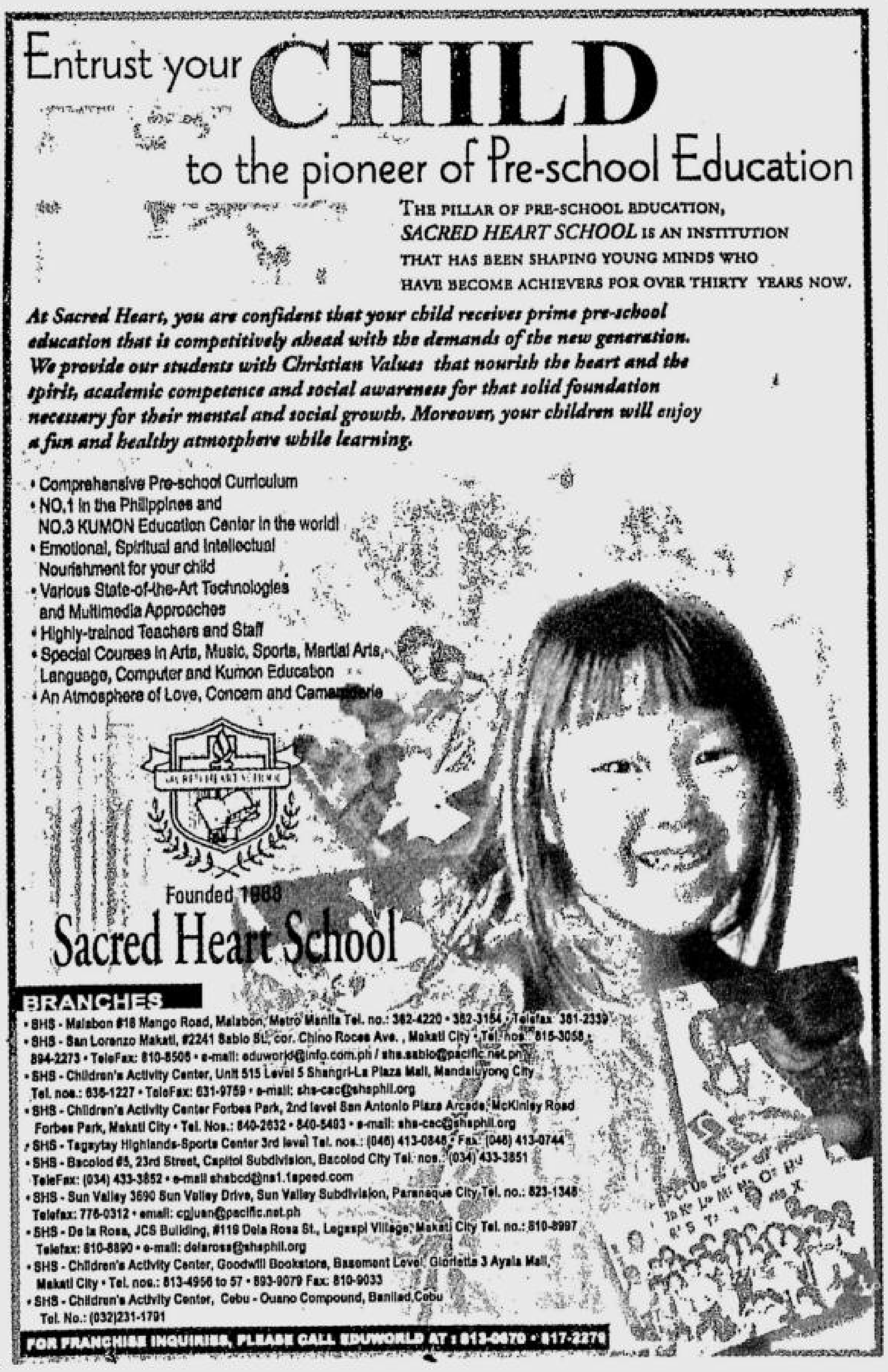
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CAVITE POLITICS

Bong Revilla won't concede yet

By Delfin Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TRECE MARTIRES CITY—Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. was about to concede to his rival last Wednesday when an alleged attempt to bomb a rally protesting his defeat caused him to change his mind.

"I was about to call Jonvic (Vice Governor Remulla) to tell him of my plan, but after the bombing attempt I decided to heed the wish of my supporters and continue the struggle," he said.

Revilla's rival, Rep. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi, has a commanding lead over Revilla in the gubernatorial race, according to the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) count of returns from 3,167 precincts.

As of 9 p.m. Wednesday, Maliksi had 245,779 votes while Revilla had 186,444.

Revilla said that at 9:06 p.m. Wednesday, he received a text message that read: 'A bomb is set to explode at 10:30 at the capitol where your rally is being held. Blame will be placed on your camp. Signed Magdalo.'

Same warning

The governor said he ignored the message at first, treating it as another prank, until a friend called him to deliver the same warning. He did not say who "Magdalo" was.

Responding policemen led by Supt. Sammy Pagdilao, Cavite police chief, found a rifle and a grenade under the car of Inah Alejar, secretary of the governor and executive director of Rescue 161.

Parked beside Alejar's Mitsubishi Sedan was one of Revilla's vans that was being used that night by two of the governor's sons accompanied by three of his sisters.

Pagdilao said the bomb, which he said lacked a timing device to trigger its explosion, was apparently meant to sow fear and not to maim or kill.

Estimates of the pro-Revilla rally crowd varied. The governor's camp said 15,000 to 20,000 supporters were present. Police said they estimated only about 3,000 to 4,000 persons.

"After the bombing attempt, I told myself this is not the time to reconcile," Revilla said.

He said his lawyers are preparing the documents to prove that there was a failure of elections in Cavite.

"There was a systematic widespread disenfranchisement of our voters. During the brownouts that occurred during the counting, lots of anomalies were reported. We will disclose all the evidence in due time," Revilla said.

Luckless Lani

Revilla's wife, actress Lani Mercado, is herself losing the mayoral race in Bacoor town to her opponent, incumbent Mayor Jessie Castillo.

Revilla's running mate, lawyer Edwina Mendoza, charged that the governor's enemies spent at least P20 million to bring about his downfall.

"*Bumaha ng pera sa* Cavite (Cavite was flooded with money)," Mendoza said.

Revilla and Mercado had figured prominently in People Power II when they withdrew their support from beleaguered former President Joseph Estrada who was a sponsor at their wedding.

"That's a lot of vengeance money. They just wanted to bring him (Revilla) down," Mendoza said.

Revilla, however, said, "It was not only about the money, it was more than that."

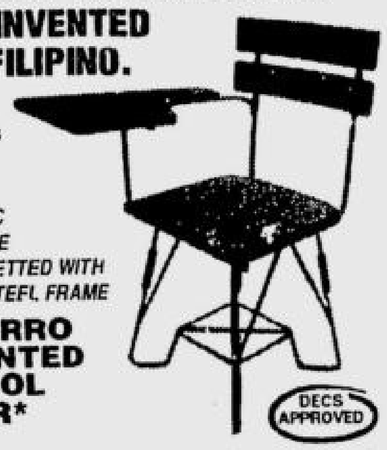
He showed the INQUIRER an election ballot that looked exactly like the real thing.

"We confiscated this fake ballot and we will present a boxful of these to show that what took place last Monday was not the true will of the people of Cavite," he said.

Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr., the governor's father, said he will call for an investigation of the bombing attempt.

He said he will also support the call to investigate Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco for alleged irregularities in the conduct of the last elections in Cavite.

"She presided over a dubious seminar of all Cavite Comelec chiefs that was held at the Covelandia Resort which is owned by our rivals, the Remullas. That was when the plan to disenfranchise thousands of Cavite voters was hatched and finalized," the Revilla patriarch charged.



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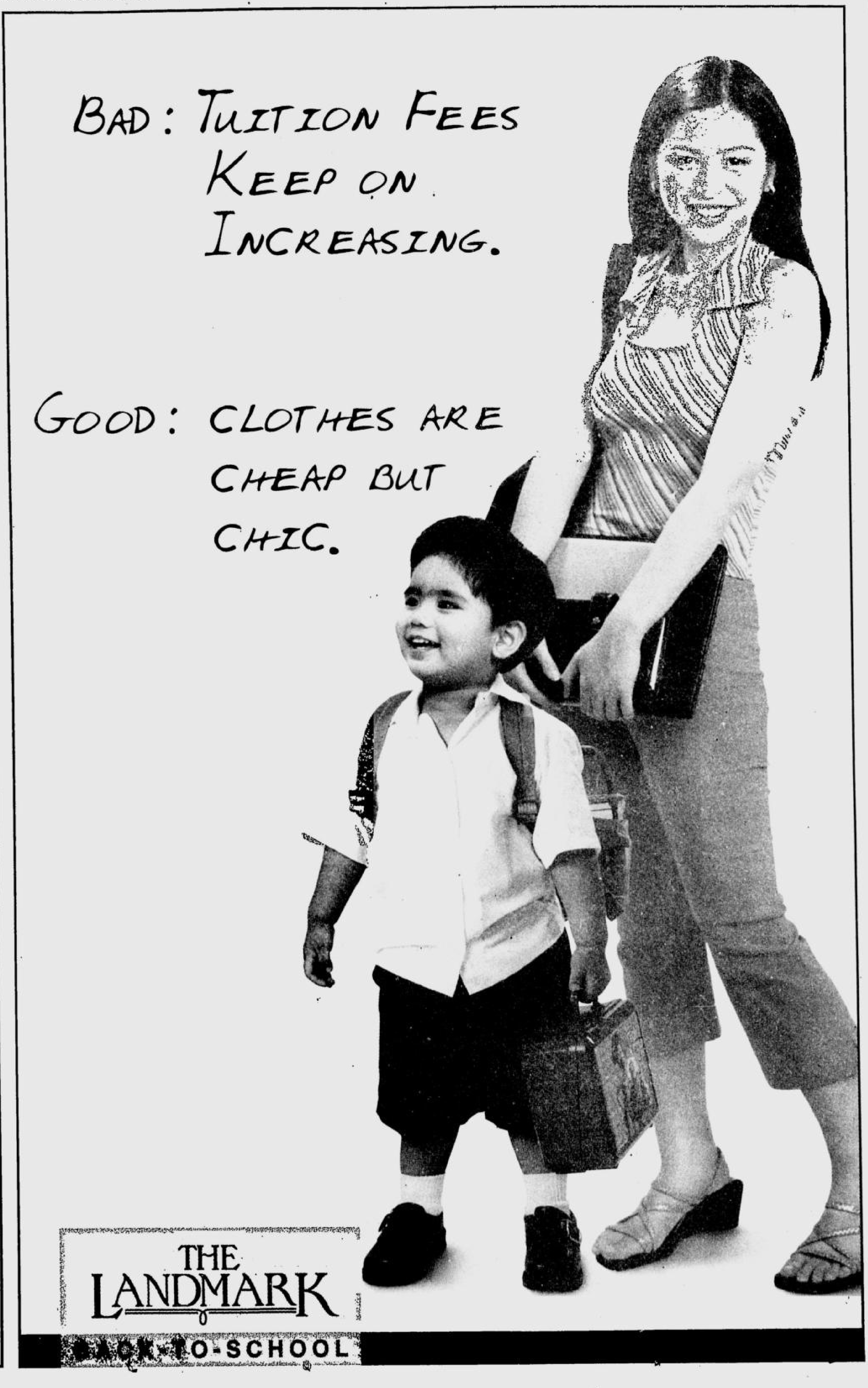
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Special session to tackle ₱11-B addition to 2001 budget

IN a special session being called by Malacañang, the House of Representatives will hear a proposal to add about P11 billion to the 2001 budget, covering, among others, a five-percent increase in government employees' salaries effective July this year.

House appropriations committee chair Florencio Abad (LP, Batanes) welcomed the holding of the special session starting May 29 during which, he said, a supplemental budget can be introduced through his House Bill No. 12931.

President Macapagal announced on Wednesday that aside from budget concerns, the outgoing 11th Congress would also be asked to finally approve the Power Reform Bill that will lead to the privatization of the state-run National Power Corp.

Abad said the House would also focus on his bill allotting P10.9 billion in the budget, which includes:

- P4.15 billion for funding the salary deficiencies for the 5,000 teaching positions created last year; the increase in government share in health and insurance premiums of civil servants; and deficiencies in the retirement benefits of government personnel, including police officers.

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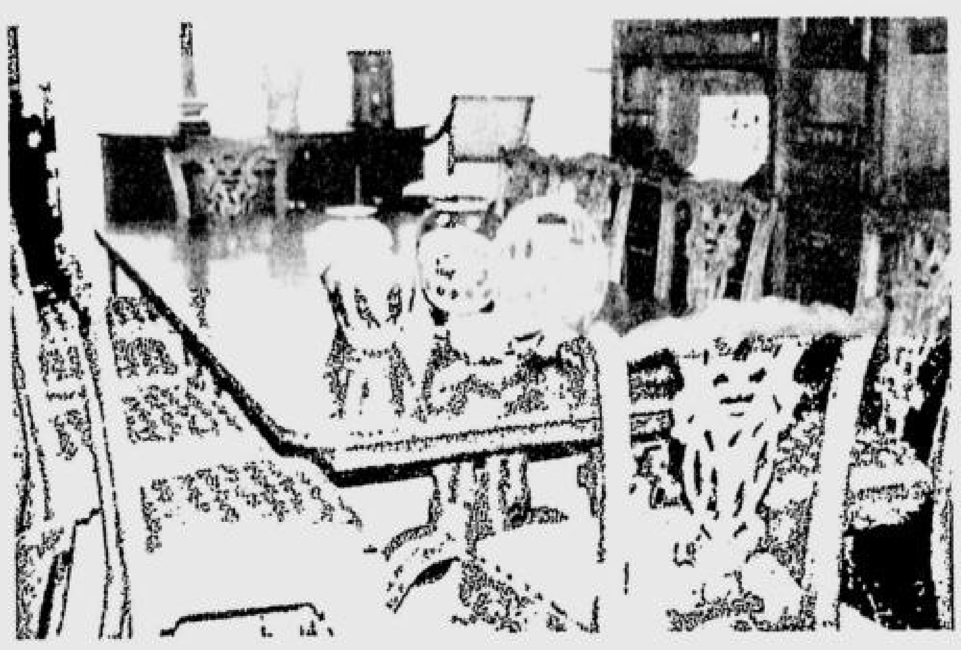

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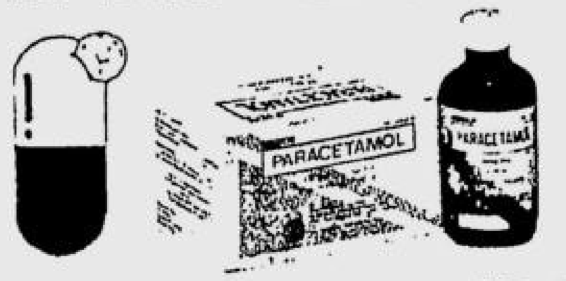

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Spoiled sandwiches down 17 at Namfrel

(From page A1)

that the victims started vomiting around 10:30 p.m. after eating sandwiches stuffed with luncheon meat and mayonnaise.

The sandwiches were delivered to Namfrel at noon, but distributed to volunteers at night.

Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion said his men were still verifying the source of the sandwich donation.

He said that Namfrel would be stricter in accepting food donations from friends.

But Soriano said Namfrel's food donors for this week's quick count were actually regular donors in previous elections.

The volunteers were brought to the hospital after Namfrel updated its ongoing count at 10:30 p.m.

Earlier in the evening, it was back to 8-4-1 in favor of the People Power Coalition senatorial candidates as Ralph Recto bounced back yesterday to regain the 13th spot from Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile of the Puwersa ng Masa.

But by 10:30 p.m., Enrile had displaced Recto, making the tally 7-5-1 again in favor of the administration coalition.

Recto was down to No. 15 at the close of the Namfrel tally at 11:30 p.m. Wednesday, giving the PPC a 7-5-1 lead.

The 10:30 tally last night was based on 63,831 precincts, or 31.76 percent of the 201,007 precincts nationwide.

Independent candidate Noli de Castro was still the runaway winner on the third day of the Namfrel quick count. He was enjoying an advantage of more than a million votes over second placer Juan Flavier. *(See Namfrel chart on Page A1 for other rankings.)*

Earlier, at 7 p.m., Recto was ahead by only 32,627 votes over closest rival Enrile, who later overtook him by less than 10,000 votes.

It was still an uphill battle for three former senators who wanted to regain a seat in the Senate.

They were Miriam Defensor-Santiago who remained in the 15th slot, Orlando Mercado (18th), and Ernesto Herrera (21th).

Veritas post-election survey

A post-election survey conducted by the Church-run Radio Veritas and the Catholic Media Network showed eight PPC candidates in the winning circle.

Four PnM candidates and De Castro also made it to the top 13.

The survey, which covered 2,200 respondents nationwide, was conducted on May 15-16.

De Castro, an independent candidate adopted by PnM, was No. 1 with 70.6 percent.

The PPC candidates who made it were Flavier (62 percent), Arroyo (60.5 percent), Pangilinan (52 percent), Osmeña (51.5 percent), Drilon (50.8 percent), Magsaysay (48.8 percent), Villar (47.1 percent) and Recto (45 percent).

Angara was No. 9; Lacson, No. 11; Honasan, No. 12; and Enrile, No. 13. The margin of error was 2.6 percent.

Results of "absentee votes" from 488 soldiers and policemen with poll duties showed Honasan leading with 338 votes. Enrile placed second, De Castro third and Lacson fourth.

Party-list race

Still leading Namfrel's party-list count as of 1:58 p.m. was the Mamamayang Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) of movie actor Richard Gomez with 213,719 votes.

Satur Ocampo's leftist organization Bayan Muna was second with 155,858 votes; followed by APEC, 52,138; Veterans Federation Party, 45,585; and Promdi, 45,409.

Trailing behind were Akbayan with 40,585 votes; Buhay, 39,506; Cibac, 33,350; PDP-Laban, 32,609 and Lakas-NUCD, 30,198.

The party-list group that gets at least 2 percent of the total party-list votes is entitled to one seat in Congress. A group can get three seats at the most. A total of 163 party-list groups have joined the race.

Commission on Elections officials yesterday blamed the long list of party-list groups for the continued delay in the canvassing of votes for the senatorial race and party-list elections at the Philippine International Convention Center.

The slow tabulation of results in the cities and provinces has raised fears of *dagdag-bawas* (vote padding and shaving).

The Comelec en banc, which had convened into the National Board of Canvassers on Wednesday, again called for a recess and suspension of canvassing as certificates of canvass from the cities and provinces had not arrived.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo said the delay in the national canvassing was "expected because of the delays in canvassing" in the cities and provinces.

The National Board of Canvassers shall proclaim the winning candidates for senators and nominees of winning party-list groups. Benipayo had earlier projected the national canvassing to take at least two weeks.

Comelec Commissioner Rex Borra blamed the long list of party-list groups for the slowing down of the tabulation in the precincts and in the canvassing by the city and provincial board of canvassers.

Borra noted that there were only 138 groups that participated in the first party-list elections in 1998.

He said the tabulators had to search the 162 names for every single vote for the party-list in each ballot.

Borra admitted that "the delay could be an opportunity for *dagdag-bawas*." He declined to elaborate.

Under Comelec rules, the municipal boards of canvassers should be able to tabulate the results from the precincts in 36 hours after the closing of the elections at 3 p.m. on Monday, while the city canvassers have 48 hours to finish the canvassing. The provincial board of canvassers will have to finish their job in 72 hours or by 3 p.m. yesterday.

Insufficient memory

Since Wednesday, the Namfrel tally has slowed due to the insufficient memory of its computer servers.

Namfrel executive director Guillermo Luz explained that while their computer processors were fast, their servers—IBM and Compaq—had insufficient memory to handle the surge of data coming from the different Namfrel field offices.

Namfrel has no extra memory to correct the problem, forcing it to wait for the servers to make the necessary adjustments.

Guz Lagman, Namfrel systems chair, said they would need another 256 megabytes to raise the memory of each of their server to 512 megabytes.

Luz said that Namfrel had been backing up its files to make sure that the data were not deleted. This, he said, also contributed to the slowdown in the preparation of the tally.

Systems encoders had to reboot their computers many times to accommodate the inflow of e-mails containing the certificates of canvass. Only half of the Namfrel's 50 computers were running late last night.

Luz said that the pace of Namfrel count was still similar to that in the 1998 elections.

Kankana-ey for PPC

In Kibungan, Benguet, the Kankana-ey folk delivered the bulk of their votes to most of the PPC candidates. The more than 6,000 voters here placed 10 of the PPC senatorial candidates within the Magic 13.

Residents did not forget on May 14 that President Macapagal-Arroyo was the only highest official of the land who twice visited this remote upland town (pop: 16,000).

"Of course, we could not forget how President Macapagal-Arroyo twice visited us, even travelling by land," said incumbent vice mayor and losing mayoral bet Benito Siadto.

The President motored to this town in 1996 when she was a senator and came to visit again in November 1998 when she was Vice President and secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The best favorite in the town was not television personality Noli de Castro, but Sen. Juan Flavier, whom local folk also remember for his "Patak Pinoy" immunization program while he was health secretary.

Ilocos Sur

In the interior towns of Ilocos Sur where electricity is still a novelty or nonexistent, gubernatorial endorsement is stronger than the power of television.

PPC's Arroyo is winning over De Castro in the unofficial poll results in the towns of San Emilio, Lidlidda, Galimuyod, Sugpon, Suyo, Sigay, Banayoyo and Sinait.

Arroyo garnered a total of 19,009 in these towns followed by Manny Villar with 16,213; Franklin Drilon with 16,121; Francisco Pangilinan with 14,241 and Ramon Magsaysay Jr. with 13,519. De Castro is only sixth with 11,501.

Outgoing Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson has campaigned vigorously for the PPC in these towns and the people responded.

In Sinait town, for example, De Castro got only 795 votes compared to Arroyo's 6,313.

In the rest of the province, particularly those along the national highway, De Castro is running second.

Namfrel figures for the towns of Bantay, Burgos, Cabugao, Caoayan, Nagbukel, Narvacan and Sto. Domingo showed De Castro leading, followed closely by Arroyo, Villar, Drilon and Magsaysay. The rest of the field included Flavier, Recto, Tañada, Osmeña, Angara, Pagdanganan, Herrera, Monsod and Ejercito.

Juan Ponce Enrile, who is leading in Abra, Ilocos Norte and in his home province of Cagayan, is running between 18th and 20th place in Ilocos Sur.

Ms Macapagal remains confident that she would have a supportive Congress once the winners are announced.

Presidential spokesperson Roberto Tiglao said the PPC "best-case" scenario in the Senate was a 10-2-1 victory and a "worst-case" scenario of 8-4-1.

Tiglao pointed out that if the administration achieved a 10-2-1 result, it could get the support of at least 14 senators as it could count on Senate President Aquilino Pimentel, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon and Noli de Castro.

If the administration achieves its "worst-case" scenario, it could still count on the support of at least 12 PPC members plus the three for a total of 15, which he said would be enough to get laws passed. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil, Mae Lorraine Rafols, Marrione Acabado and Cai Ordinario in Manila; and Maurice Malanes in Benguet and Frank Cimatu in Ilocos Sur***

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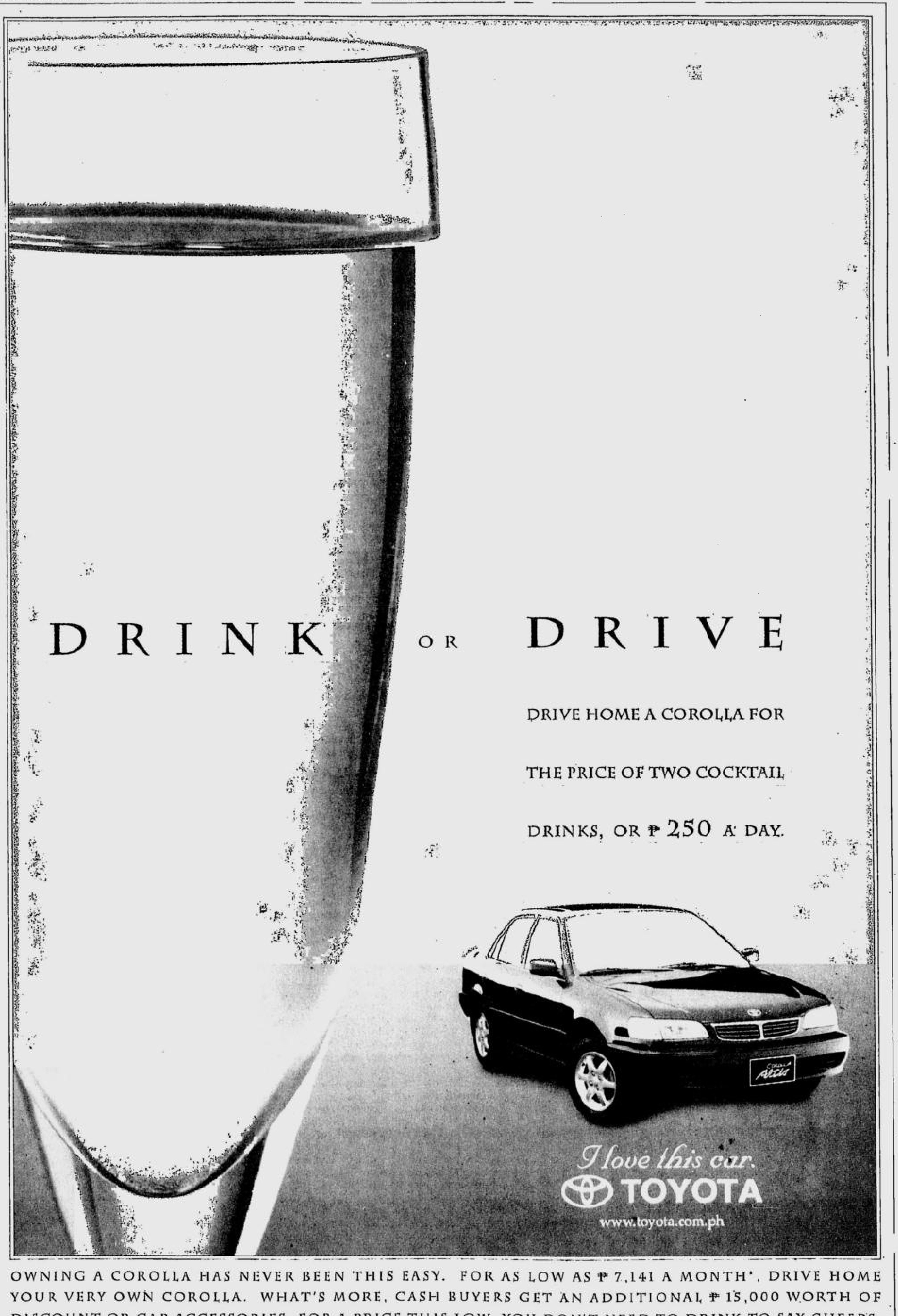

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Preparing for 2004

EDITORIAL

EVEN before all the votes cast in Monday's elections are counted and all the winners are known, preparations should begin for the next elections scheduled in 2004. There is never time enough, it seems, for our lumbering, bungling and bickering election officials to register qualified voters, print ballots and other forms, get these materials to the polling places on time and do all the many big and small things that are necessary for an orderly balloting and a fair counting of votes. Indeed the confusion, violence and fraud that marred the last elections underscore the need and urgency of undertaking major reforms in almost every phase of the electoral process.

Any attempt at reforming the electoral process will obviously have to begin with the Commission on Elections. Because of its miserable performance, the present commission has been described by some groups as the "worst" ever, which is hardly an exaggeration. On several occasions, rivalry and infighting between two factions inside the Comelec led to a stalemate, preventing the poll body from making important decisions or putting plans into action. Four commissioners appointed by former President Joseph Estrada, led by Luzviminda Tancangco, have banded together to block almost every proposal put forward by Chair Alfredo Benipayo and two other commissioners who were nominated by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. This division in the commission, which dates back to the time of Chair Harriet Demetriou, has practically paralyzed the poll body, setting back plans to computerize the voting and counting, clean up the list of voters and register new voters.

The deadlock and paralysis in the Comelec can't be allowed to go on. If Tancangco and company are blocking the election modernization program, a way has to be found to get them out of the way. There must be a law penalizing capricious obstructionism of this kind. The National Movement for Free Elections has threatened to file an impeachment complaint against Tancangco for derailing the proceedings of the Comelec and failing to come up with a computerized voters' list. She has also been accused of other violations of the Election Code, like trying to sneak out printing plates for some official election forms. The impeachment process should be set in motion the moment the new Congress opens.

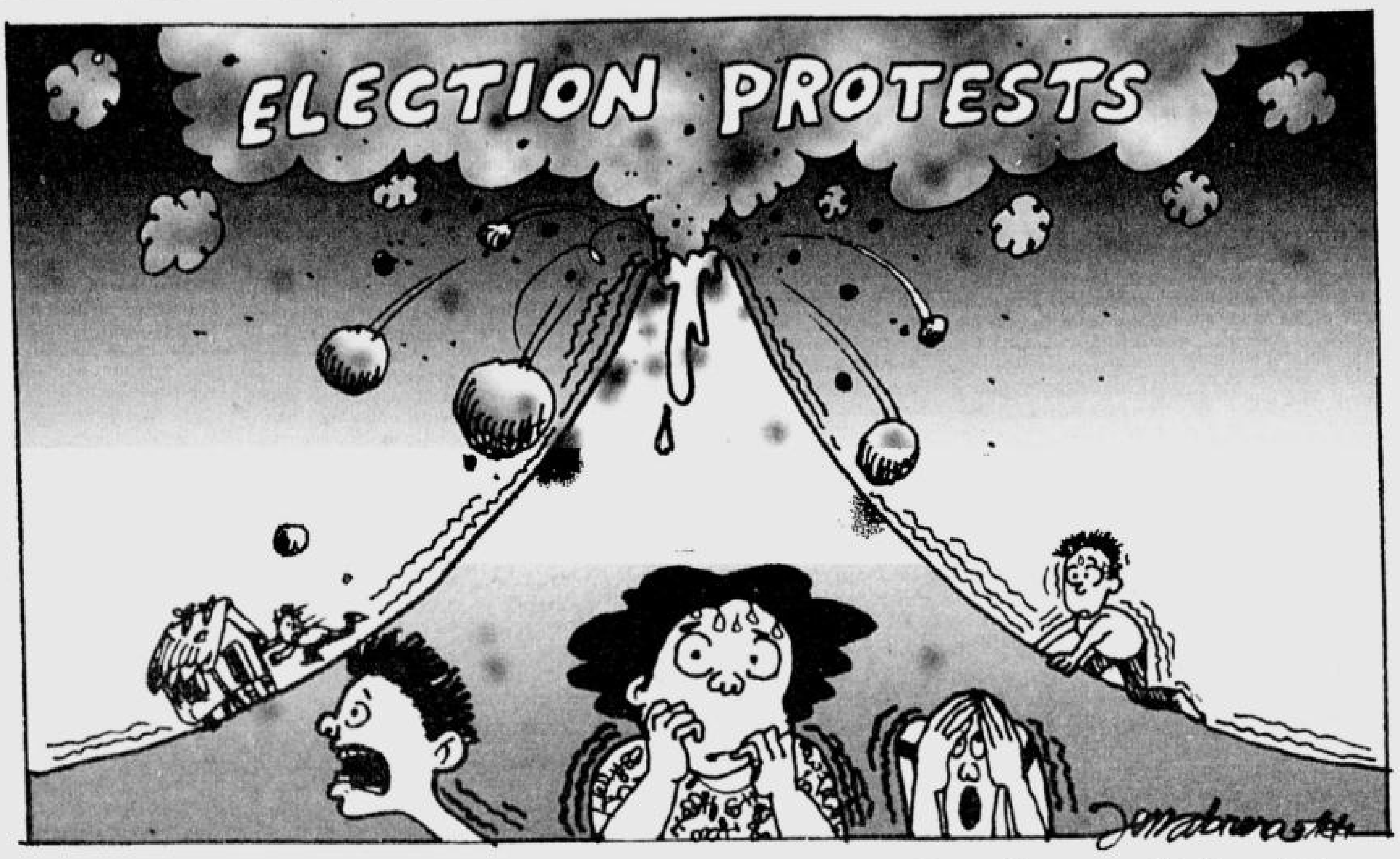
Once the stalemate is broken, the Comelec should proceed to carry out the election modernization program. The first order of business is to purge the voters' list of double registrants, register new voters and computerize the list. Then the poll body should take the extra step of informing voters well ahead of the next elections where their voting precincts are located.

Next on the electoral reform agenda should be the automation of the voting and counting. In this age of the Internet, one of the most pathetic sights during the last elections was that of teachers doing their tally of votes on manila paper. Congress should provide whatever funds are needed for the modernization program in the next fiscal year so that everything will have been set up and tested long before the 2004 elections.

Then Congress and the Executive should find ways to stop the three ancient plagues of Philippine elections: guns, goons and gold.

The first two were in full display in the last electoral exercise, ensuring that there would be a record number of fatalities this year. The Armed Forces of the Philippines has admitted that as many as 100 private armies were fielded during the last elections. But if the authorities were able to monitor so many, as AFP Deputy Chief of Staff Jose Calimlim claimed, why was there no report of a single one of them being disarmed and dismantled? The last time we looked, the carrying of firearms, unless authorized by the Comelec, constituted a violation of the Election Code.

Finally, the members of Congress should seriously think of legislation that would stamp out the very common practice of vote buying. Elections have become for the most part an auction, with the highest bidder getting elected to a position. Very few politicians can say with a straight face that they came by their position through sheer personal charisma or the superiority of their qualifications or platform. When positions are bought, that becomes the beginning of the cycle of corruption. If the practice is broken, it will be the beginning of meaningful reforms not only in the electoral process but also in governance.



Mayoral winner in Tagaytay polls disqualified?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

CHARGES of cheating are flying back and forth. So what else is new? The standing joke is that the Philippines has only two kinds of candidates: those who win and those who are cheated. Nobody ever loses fair and square. There is no gentleman-loser. Every loser has been cheated.

People power is being used by losing candidates to try and turn the tide against them. Their supporters demonstrate in front of canvassing centers clamoring for a halt in the canvassing because of cheating. They ask the Commission on Elections to declare a failure of elections because of cheating. A foreigner listening to all the complaints will think that we are a nation of cheats.

But there is a reason for all the complaints and suspicions. Cheating is part and parcel of Philippine elections. The losing candidate is the candidate who cheated less and spent less. Candidates already include funds to buy votes in their campaign budgets. And there are voters who willfully look for buyers for their votes. One voter was seen with a sign around his neck saying he will sell his vote for P500.

Vote-buying is a big drain on the finances of candidates. So they have hit back. They buy votes with fake peso bills or fake gift certificates. They use fake certificates to trick greedy and corrupt voters.

In far-flung areas of Palawan, workers of rivals of gubernatorial candidate Edward Hagedorn distributed fake certificates for P1,000 and P2,000 with instructions to redeem them at Hagedorn's headquarters in Puerto Princesa at 12 noon of Sunday, May 13, the day before the election. The recipients traveled for many hours to get to Puerto Princesa, waited many hours more to cash their certificates only to be told that their certificates were fake. By the time they got back home, it was too late to vote.

No doubt there are still many other clever gimmicks still unheard of. And there are political leaders who keep thinking of new ways to cheat.

And don't think that poll cheating is confined to the Philippines. The Americans have been employing flying voters since the 1900s, one of the more prominent employers being the grandfather of President John F. Kennedy. I was reading a book by Nellie Bly on the Kennedy men and early in the book, I came upon this passage:

"Born in Boston on Sept. 6, 1888, while P.J. (for Patrick Joseph) was serving in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, one of Joe's (that's Joseph Patrick Kennedy, JFK's father) earliest memories was the day that two of his father's constituents arrived at the Kennedy house with the good news that each had cast 128 votes that day."

* * *

Last May 14, I wrote about the disqualification case against Bataan Gov. Leonardo Roman who, according to the Comelec en banc, has already served three consecutive terms as governor and is therefore disqualified from running for a fourth term. The trouble is that Roman is running unopposed and therefore he is as good as elected. So a Bataan voter has filed a petition with the Comelec to suspend his proclamation until it rules with finality on his disqualification.

Now comes a similar case in Tagaytay City. Incumbent Mayor Francis Tolentino has already served three consecutive terms as mayor of Tagaytay and therefore is already disqualified from running for a fourth term. His opponent, No. 1 Councilor Miriam Mendoza, filed a disqualification case. The first division of the Comelec disqualified him. But the Comelec registrar of Tagaytay disregarded the Comelec order and allowed votes to be cast and counted for Tolentino. Now Tolentino is ahead in the canvassing and there are plans to have him proclaimed immediately so that Mendoza will have to file her election protest in court, not in the Comelec. As things go in the courts, the three-year term would be almost over by the time an election protest is decided, and that would be an injustice not only to the complainant but also to the people of Tagaytay. Shouldn't his proclamation be suspended also until the Comelec decides the disqualification case with finality?

As in the Roman case, the confusion arises from the fact that Tolentino did not serve the full three years of his first term. Tolentino first ran for mayor in May of 1992. But it was his opponent who was declared the winner. Tolentino filed an election protest and was eventually declared the winner. He assumed office on Aug. 24, 1994, or two years and three months after the beginning of the term of office. Tolentino then ran for the same post in the 1995 and 1998 elections and won both times. The petitioner said he has already served three consecutive terms and is therefore barred from running for a fourth.

In his defense, Tolentino cited the Borja vs. Comelec (295 SCRA 157) and Lozanida vs. Comelec (311 SCRA 602) cases. He was wrong, ruled the Comelec.

In the Borja case, then Pateros Vice Mayor Jose T. Capco assumed the mayoral post upon the death of Mayor Cesar Borja in 1989. He then ran for mayor in 1992 and 1995 and won. A disqualification case was filed against him in 1998 but the Comelec ruled in his favor. He had served only two, not three, terms.

The reason is that he succeeded the deceased mayor and served his unexpired term. He was not elected to the position, unlike Tolentino and Roman.

In the Lozanida case, Romeo Lozanida served two consecutive terms as mayor, 1988-1992 and 1992-1995. When he ran again in 1995, he was proclaimed winner but his opponent, Juan Alvez, filed an election protest with the court which declared a failure of elections. Both parties appealed to the Comelec. Alvez was eventually declared winner and served the unexpired term. When Lozanida ran again in 1998, a disqualification petition was filed against him, invoking the three-term limit.

The Supreme Court declared that the term from 1995 to 1998 cannot be counted as one term for Lozanida because his proclamation was subsequently declared void and although he served a portion of the term, he was eventually unseated.

The Borja and Lozanida cases don't apply to the Tolentino and Roman cases, ruled the Comelec.

A failure named Comelec

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

IN THE THREE decades since I became a voter, this election past in my experience was the worst. Mind you, the system was not bad in the precinct I voted in. Once I found out my precinct, the system was efficient enough. But I have grown tired of being given Comelec IDs with instantly obsolete precinct numbers, of having to guess which among several possible precincts mine is, of hearing the lamentations of friends in other places who have discovered themselves disenfranchised by either incompetence or legerdemain.

Why is it, when tourists can visit a space station and Nasa can operate a vehicle on Mars by remote control from Earth, that we have an electoral system that is actually slower and less efficient than that we had 50 years ago?

More people is one answer. No new technology is another. We still have an electoral system voters of the 16th century would recognize. In the adaptation of technology, compared to the Comelec, a tortoise is a Ferrari. Computers, faxes, satellite telecommunications might as well be non-existent. One result is it takes days, even weeks, to resolve who won. The other result is that *dagdag-bawas* becomes possible.

The legal system has contrived a structure that has Comelec commissioners newly appointed only a few months before elections. No private business in its right mind would routinely hire a new CEO and board two months before a major product launch. It certainly makes one wonder whether or not the term "Philippine government" is an oxymoron.

Candidates complain each election time about the electoral system's faults but Congress is always wary of too great an innovation on the presumed theory that the devil they know is always better than the one they are yet inventing. And the voters, the media, the NGOs and so forth act like characters in "Brigadoon," energized for one day over the inequities of it all before going to a prolonged political sleep until they wake up again for one day three years hence.

Ours is a country more enamored of complaining about problems than in finding solutions. There is absolutely nothing under the sun that we do not already know about election problems. No congressional committee hearing is needed to reiterate the obvious. The system, by and large, remains in place because we never muster the stamina necessary to carry reforms through. We are excellent at political sprints like Edsa. Marathons are another thing altogether.

I have three modest suggestions about how to proceed. My first would be to abolish entirely the present system as an admitted failure: the knowledge of ignorance is the beginning of wisdom. The second would be to create an entirely new commission, funded and hired on the same basis as a large publicly listed corporation.

Set strict qualifications for appointment, especially for the chair and commissioners. Prefer those with management experience and education, especially those with MBAs from top-tier local and foreign schools. Match their salaries and benefits with the best packages in private industry, say, Ayala, San Miguel and so forth. Clean elections are worth it.

Set relatively low basic salaries but grant large, even humongous, bonuses based upon quantifiable criteria. If everything works, give everyone a three-year performance bonus. If not, sorry. This will have the added advantage of discouraging corruption.

Finally, fund the Comelec adequately and automatically. Treat it as a capital investment in democracy and develop ratios and indexes to determine whether or not the Comelec is giving the voter an adequate return. If they don't meet these indexes, they shouldn't keep their jobs. Just like private industry, performance and productivity should be the litmus test for all.

I realize that much of this will require constitutional and legal changes. Far more importantly, it requires an ability, as Marat/Sade once put it, for the public to turn itself "inside out and look at the world with new eyes." If we have this ability, reform will follow. If not, we will do what we have been doing for almost a century, nibbling along the edges of a failed electoral system, compounding failure with failure.

Why are we not a nation of great adventurers and explorers? Why are the words Filipino and adventure rarely dovetailed? We are a conservative people, patient like the carabao, briefly dangerous like the tamaraw. Like many other peoples, we can be suspicious of change. This is a quality which when married to our failed political system produces more complaints than reforms.

Yet the electoral system needs to be drastically changed if we are to have any hope of political stability. A system that breeds dissatisfaction and complaints undermines democracy and provides cover to those in the extreme Left and Right who challenge the legitimacy of our republic. In Pakistan, democracy has been discredited by the behavior of its bickering politicians and the corruption of its electoral system. The military there has used these opportunities to overthrow elected governments and impose martial rule. Is this farfetched in the Philippines? Perhaps less so than we would like to think.

If the reform works, it ought to bring us not only cleaner elections but better candidates and laws. The idea may even catch on and we may find ourselves like Singapore having public officials with higher qualifications than those found in the private industry. A wholesale change in the electoral system is in order. Tinkering with it again, bringing false hopes, may be worse than doing nothing.

Time to end the swindling of the poor

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

ACCORDING to the 11 a.m. tabulation yesterday of the National Movement for Free Elections' quick count of the senatorial elections, the results in the National Capital Region (People Power Coalition, 8; Puwersa ng Masa, 4; and Independent, 1) corresponded with those of the national vote.

Based on the tally, 47.93 percent of Metro Manila results had been reported to Namfrel's tabulation center. The capital region had the highest reporting percentage, compared to 32.73 percent from Region I; 34.21 percent from Region II; 9.19 percent from Region III; 27.34 percent from Region IV; 21.17 percent from Region V; 10.34 percent from Region VI; 28.19 percent from Region VII; 29.07 percent from Region VIII; 21.33 percent from Region IX; 22.41 percent from Region X; 30.49 percent from Region XI; 29.51 percent from Region XII; and 3.46 percent from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The percentage of reports from the NCR is nearly twice higher than that of the national average, 25.88 percent.

Metro Manila has around 5 million votes, or one-seventh of the total registered voters nationally (36.5 million). The capital region has as much votes as Southern Tagalog (5,400,000), more than Central Luzon's 3,900,000, slightly more than Central and Eastern Visayas combined (4.5 million), and more than half of all Mindanao's 8 million.

The conventional wisdom in Philippine politics is that the nation follows the capital's electoral mood, although it takes some time for the nation to catch up with Metro Manila's preferences. The usual measurement applies to presidential elections, although in this year's mid-term elections, the convergence of national and Metro Manila modes might be shown in the senatorial results. This is based on the assumption that the May elections are a referendum for the three-month-old administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Even though there is a convergence in the tally of the NCR and the national vote on the senatorial elections, we have to be aware of a different context existing today. The context is shaped by two important events: first, the attack on Malacañang Palace on May 1 by the urban poor, incited to rebellion by a counterelite who smell of eau de cologne rather than the sweat of the great unwashed and who have appropriated the "power of the masses" as their vehicle to win in the elections after their attempt to seize power by illegal means (rebellion) failed; and, second, a new administration which has not stayed in office long enough for its performance to be judged for approval or rejection. These two elements are abnormal and extraordinary events, and they represent two underlying issues. The first issue is about whether the Metro Manila voters approve of the succession of President Macapagal in the circumstances of People Power II. The second issue is about whether there is a backlash on the attack on the seat of state power.

The 8-4-1 result seems to tell us that in traditionally oppositionist Metro Manila, the government won more seats in the Senate than the opposition. This does not translate, however, into a comfortable administration control of the Senate. So, in Metro Manila, the government appears to have won a thin margin and confirmation of its legitimacy.

But at this stage, the opposition cannot claim a victory, although it may have the capacity to throw a spanner in the works and bring a national agenda into paralysis. It is a display of hubris on the part of opposition leaders to make the assumption that the alleged cheating by the government side is a given and will determine the final outcome. Both sides are alleging cheating to change the positions of marginal candidates through either *dagdag-bawas* or plain *bawas*.

Prudence requires both sides to wait for the final result.

On the second issue, more than a quarter of Metro Manila's population come from the urban poor, the constituency of deposed President Estrada. They composed the battering ram of the hordes incited to revolt by opposition leaders identified with the affluent and comfortable class. Assuming that they voted for the opposition, it makes me sad that in these elections, the urban poor were again hijacked and swindled to support a Senate ticket which does not offer the faintest idea of how the poor can benefit from an opposition victory.

Of course, the administration is in power and should initiate more than lip service approaches to alleviate poverty, but it has not claimed to be a party resting on the back of the poor. So, let's put an end to this swindling of the poor and let us help the poor to understand that they have been misled by false champions to vote for them or to act as a human wave in a rebellion whose agitators have gone back to the parliamentary stream to win power, as if nothing happened on May 1.

There appears to have been a backlash from the May 1 uprising and the backlash hit the PPC more than the PnM. The PnM was the beneficiary of the uprising. But the backlash could have been worse. The Metro Manila voters seem to have sent the message that they want to give the Macapagal administration a chance, but they have plenty of reservations. The tentative results of the NCR senatorial vote—which are settling down to 8-4-1 for the PPC—clearly draw the profile of a deeply divided nation, reflected in the close results in the capital region.

What this division foreshadows is a possible impasse in the Senate, a bad thing for the country, not between the rich and the poor (which is the false issue foisted upon us by the heirs of Estrada) but between the rich false champions of the poor and the elite in the administration ready to formulate programs for the poor, neglected by the poor's false idol—Estrada. In the forthcoming fight for the new balance of power in the Senate, the key issue is who gets what and the poor will again be conveniently sidelined—ready to be mobilized by another demagogue in a phony class war. The Senate seems to be developing into a domicile for closet demagogues and firebrands rather than as a chamber of illuminating debate.

Democracy

COMMENTARY

Rosario A. Garcellano

(This was published as a column in the Opinion section of the Manila Standard on May 13, 1987, shortly after the first election under the administration of President Corazon Aquino. A rereading of it after the first election under the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would suggest that in these parts, the more things change, the more they remain the same.—Ed.)

THE PRESIDENT called it "the most peaceful and honest election" the country has ever experienced since its independence.

Granting the perils of simplistic comparison, however, and notwithstanding those glowing words which seem to vindicate the idea that the present order is desirable and the best the people can hope for, reports of irregularities and violations of citizens' right to suffrage crop up to taint the pervading congratulatory air.

Let us lay aside for the moment the mind-bending spending that was recently displayed in this country where the poverty level is rising ever higher and where thousands of children die or are cretinized because they have nothing to eat. The large-scale disfranchisement of people in heavily militarized areas drapes a wet blanket on the exercise, moving one to wonder exactly where the filth ends and the cleanness begins, where the war is cut short and the peace commences. At any rate, this dim appraisal of the election would doubtless be deemed blasphemous, if not "loyalistic," by those who advocate the propagation of the status quo, no matter that crooks of all shades who have exhibited the sheerest gall to run for public office may still by some perverse fluke—or design—make it to those august halls of Congress, after all.

In fact, as of this writing poll-related violence has already produced 17 fatalities—a figure all but dismissed by observers and even opinion-makers as negligible, as though it were not a truth that each human life is non-negotiable and that death or injury in the hands of those who seek to swing the reluctant pendulum toward victory is condemnable by any consideration. Over the air, the mortality and injury figures as mouthed by anchorpersons and so-called analysts seem to bounce off the public consciousness as casual statistics far removed from a valid radius of daily life, so that it would even appear to be an encouraging indicator, given, it is said, our bloody history as a people particularly passionate about electoral exercises. Or so they say.

And they are still counting the bodies even as they canvass the votes. And the purported 90 percent participation of the 26 million voters moved Comelec Chair Ramon Felipe to say Monday afternoon that the election showed "the people maintaining our democracy."

These days in this democracy, every mother's son and his cousin are harping on the observation that the violence during the polls is "nothing" compared to that of the past—and one shudders at the subtext that lurks between the lines, as in "*Bagot na bagot na ang mga* Namfrel volunteers *sa kabahantay sa presinto.*" It would appear that we are so accustomed to mayhem—in fact expect it—during national exercises, and one detects quite clearly the lewd anticipation for spilled blood in the seemingly hopeful assertion that the local polls scheduled in August would be "hotter."

But in fact the event was, apart from the behind-the-scenes horse-trading, not without its "action." Over nationwide television in this democracy, a researcher spoke of a UPP-KBL watcher allegedly performing the task of counting the votes in a precinct somewhere in Manila, and of how votes for PnB candidates Nelia Sancho and Bernabe Buscayno were allegedly not counted. Et cetera.

The election will doubtless continue to dominate all news and discussions over the coming days, considering that the absence of official Comelec tally sheets, among other things, has produced an extremely slow tabulation of votes. Yet even initial results yield potent eye-openers, not the least of which is the trend produced by the absentee voters, who are mainly made up of members of the military. While Juan Ponce Enrile's topping the list is hardly surprising, the dismal showing of the President's candidates, including Leticia Ramos Shahani, sister of Gen. Fidel Ramos no less, says much about how the President's soldiers perceive the present leadership.

And then of course there is the seemingly effective neutralization of Augusto Sanchez, widely perceived to be a candidate with progressive leanings.

So the hoopla is all over but the counting. And the shouting. Amid the body count and the charges and countercharges of cheating and such, including the predictable outrage of the Honolulu exile, the bitter irony of the words "the wide participation of the people reflected the advent of the true process of democracy" hits the observer with the impact of a sorry joke.

If nothing else, the election and the days preceding it show us up to be a people consumed by shallow concerns, so that children could be dying of starvation and men and women could be daily killed in the crossfire between the military and the insurgents, yet we would choose to abandon ourselves to this expensive electoral circus.

If this is a step in our awakening as a people, then the step is very picayune indeed, and if the democracy we all espouse means giving more than contemptuous attention to the scoundrels and the charlatans, then we lay ourselves open to ridicule. And if we can be swayed by dance music and the power of personalities more than a lucid espousal of programs of action, more than nationalist stands on issues that affect our very lives, then perhaps we all deserve what we're getting.

Taiwan, Washington cozy up and push own agendas

NEWS ANALYSIS

Benjamin Yeh

TAIPEI—Taiwan and Washington are enjoying the first flush of a new romance as their new leaders cozy up to exploit the shift in perspective created by changes in both administrations, analysts said Wednesday.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell announced Monday that Washington would grant a transit visa to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian on his trip to Latin America despite strong objections from Beijing.

A jubilant Chen hailed the decision, which he said, together with US President George W. Bush's approval last month of the biggest US arms package to Taiwan since 1992, marked significant progress in Taipei-Washington ties.

"This is something even former president Lee Teng-hui did not achieve during his 12 years in office," Chen said.

Observers noted Taiwan was riding a wave of popularity with its leading arms supplier, while across the Strait the mainland remained locked in row over a downed US spy plane stranded for six weeks in southern China.

One Taiwan analyst said he had been told by Richard Bush (no relation), the chair and managing director of the official American Institute in Taiwan, that Washington felt comfortable with Chen at the helm, whereas Lee had been perceived as more provocative.

The institute is the body authorized to handle civil contacts with the island after Washington switched diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979.

Chen, who leaves Monday, will stop in New York on his way South and will return via Houston, Texas, where he will take in a baseball game at the invitation of Republican Tom DeLay, the majority whip of the US House of Representatives.

On a previous US stopover in August, the administration of former president Bill Clinton had tried to prevent Chen from seeing US politicians, although one lawmaker did gatecrash a private function.

Chen, from the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), succeeded Lee after winning last year's presidential polls to end the Kuomintang's 51-year grip on power.

"Mr. Richard Bush once told me on a private occasion that Chen was very cooperative with the US," said Joseph Wu, deputy director of National Chengchi University's Institute of International Relations.

"He did not specify in what ways Chen was cooperative but in general the US was very comfortable with Chen," he said.

Chen's inaugural speech was welcomed by the former US administration when, despite once being an open advocate of independence, he ruled out a declaration of independence in a bid to soothe Beijing's fears.

Provocative remarks by former president Lee had raised eyebrows in the Clinton White House, keen to maintain regional stability and engage Beijing, maintaining a steady eye on its potential markets.

But even though Bush has said he sees Beijing not as a "strategic partner" but as a "strategic competitor," analysts say they see no shift in Washington's "One China policy," under which Beijing is the sole legitimate government of China.

"I don't see a major shift in Washington's China policy," said parliamentarian Chou Hsi-wei from the opposition People First Party.

China has opposed the transit visa. Beijing's foreign ministry spokesperson Sun Yuxi said China had "expressed strong dissatisfaction and opposition" through diplomatic channels over the issue.

But Powell said: "We will try to reassure the authorities in Beijing that there is nothing in the president's transit that they should find disturbing or in any way modifying or changing or casting any doubt on the policy that exists between us and the People's Republic of China."

Chou warned however that Washington could just be using Taiwan for its own ends to keep in check any attempts by China to expand its regional influence.

"Chen must always remember that what Washington does is purely in its own interests," he said.

The state visit will also take Chen, accompanied by his wife Wu Shu-chen, to El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay and Honduras.

AFP

Continued relevance of rural reconstruction

COMMENTARY

Jeremaiah M. Opiniano
Institute on Church and Social Issues

THE INTERNATIONAL Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), a handiwork of the late Ramon Magsaysay awardee Dr. Yang-Chu James Yen, is now nearly four decades old. Rural reconstruction, said to be a movement where the rural poor work for their own development, was an effective approach for previous rural development programs. But even in changing times, and under newly emerging development ideas, rural reconstruction might probably hold its own at the moment.

To be precise, Dr. Yen's coining of the phrase and his involvement in rural reconstruction work have gained him international significance. But it is the spirit of the movement that counts, not just for development planners and rural people, but for civil society as well.

In the four decades of organized rural reconstruction work by the IIRR, which has a plush 40-hectare international headquarters in Silang, Cavite, the institute is known for its participatory and integrated approaches. This is because, as Dr. Yen himself believed, "poverty, illiteracy, misgovernment and illnesses are interlocking problems that require an integrated approach to solving them." It came to be known as the four-fold approach to rural reconstruction.

The IIRR also believes that rural reconstruction is an approach that sees what works best in the field. The rural people, who, for example, very well know what agricultural approaches are apt for their own local conditions, are then empowered by the IIRR through facilitation and development communication approaches. Surprisingly, many development organizations are employing technical approaches that, if applied in countries like Ethiopia, Ecuador, Vietnam or the Philippines, do not work. That is why the IIRR believes in people-centered, field-tested approaches.

Such is also why that kind of approach remains relevant until today, though it is somehow underestimated by other development organizations.

The four decades of the IIRR rural development work bring to the fold many development lessons that can be replicated by scholars, strategists and development workers.

During that span of time, the IIRR is approaching development through knowledge. Knowledge is important for the IIRR since many of the rural poor remain unaware of other practices in agriculture, environment and health that might work for them. In answer to this, the IIRR has a knowledge transformation process where it generates, acquires and shares knowledge from field-based work by the IIRR, other development organizations and rural communities. This dynamic of knowledge generation, knowledge acquisition and sharing is a marvel in rural development work, as effective and field-tested practices and approaches are then disseminated to the international community—especially to the rural communities in Asia, Africa and Latin America where the IIRR offices are situated.

What reinforces this knowledge transformation process of the IIRR is a distinct approach in development communication. A renowned IIRR development communication approach is the participatory writeshop process, which gathers scientists, scholars, development workers and managers, editors, artists and desktop publishers to write best practices articles in a rigorous two-week process. These articles are then compiled into a resource book, like for example in microenterprise development, indigenous mother and child health care and aquaculture, and copies are distributed worldwide. Many international agencies and even government organizations have replicated the process, which the IIRR allows and even encourages. The best thing about the resource books is that these have no copyright, and anybody can translate and photocopy their contents. These books are also heavily illustrated so that readers, particularly the rural poor, may understand the best practice approaches written. With the gains the IIRR had reaped because of the process, the writeshop is the "IIRR's single best contribution to development communication."

Another significant IIRR activity are its training-related activities, the most frequent of these are the international training courses. The contents of these courses do not come from training books, but from field-based experiences that work. While these activities are participatory and integrated, the IIRR stimulates participants with differing activities like case analyses, field visits, study groups, lectures and discussions, and even interactive sessions. Alumni of these training activities then apply whatever knowledge they got to their own countries and development organizations. Over 10,000 development workers in over 100 countries have been alumni of the IIRR's training activities.

Yet probably the most important virtue of the IIRR's work is its emphasis on participation and integration. The institute does not believe in competition among the different sectors to work for a community's development, which is a prevailing fact in the NGO community here and abroad. It embodies a "civil society spirit" where different sectors—individuals, communities, government, business and the voluntary organizations—work together for a common cause. Many of the IIRR's projects welcome such kinds of collaboration, even while it plans its projects for the rural poor. This also shows that rural reconstruction is not a mutually exclusive movement, and is, in fact, a daunting task that needs all the help it can get.

As the rural reconstruction movement aspires for continued relevance, its bearing lies in the hands of society's different sectors, most especially the NGO community, if they find the approach worth doing. While many have aspired for people-centered development, rural reconstruction as an approach can be an apt framework for many to adopt and follow.

At the heart of the rural reconstruction movement, led by the IIRR, is a commitment to the release of the rural poor's potentials for development. The IIRR hopes that everybody, even individuals, will adhere and help such a cause. They can even get inspiration from the IIRR's "Credo of Rural Reconstruction":

Go to the peasant people
Live among them
Learn from them
Plan with them
Work with them
Start with what they know
Build on what they have
Teach by showing, learn by doing
Not a showcase but a pattern
Not odds and ends but a system
Not piecemeal but integrated approach
Not to conform but to transform
Not relief but release.

THEY SAID

Antiquated poll system

"We really need to overhaul the system because it's so antiquated. We pity the teachers who have to count 36 million ballots."
—Namfrel secretary general Guillermo Luz

Indignation votes

"We would rather not refer to these as sympathy votes, but as indignation votes."
—Vallie Faith Bibit on the big voters' turnout in favor of the wife of slain Rep. Marcial Punzalan

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LETTERS

Post-election cleaning-up

CANDIDATES' should clean up their own mess!

Next to the mudslinging and murders, the post-election garbage mess is one of the worst features of our elections.

After pasting their grinning faces on every available wall during the campaign period, the candidates, with very few exceptions, would conveniently let the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel do the cleanup after.

Is this fair?

We teach our children to always clean after their own mess yet we tolerate our elected leaders to pollute our surroundings with impunity. This must stop once and for all!

The practical and long-term solution is for the Commission on Elections to come up with a new rule requiring each would-be candidate to deposit 10 percent of his/her print production budget to a "Clean-Up Fund." This will guarantee that win or lose, the mess he/she makes will be removed but not at the expense of the public. This means that the more posters you print out, the more you have to spend for cleanup later.

What about those donated printed materials? They should be removed by the donors concerned or else their candidate or party will be disqualified.

While there are other important electoral reforms that must be enacted (like the review of the party-list system as powerful sectors like political parties are likely to get more representation through the backdoor, further marginalizing the marginalized sectors), the post-election cleanup should be given priority as it graphically represents our national character.

It's time we taught our leaders to own and clean up their own mess.—**ED DAMES, 24th Floor, The Enterprise Center Tower 2, 6766 Ayala Ave. corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City**

Performance over popularity

OTHERS would say that I really should not do this. You never know who will win the mayoral race, and so it would be best to not to publicly favor any candidate in a city or town before the elections if your business is based on a contract with the local government. My company happens to have such a contract with the city government of Manila.

But I asserted in a previous letter that where public officials are concerned, recognition of the good would be as healthy as condemnation of the bad. Thus I confirm Ramon Tulfo's observations made in his column last May 5 that Mayor Lito Atienza has made visible and tangible improvements in the city.

I speak from first-hand experience. Towing is a very unpopular business. However, this does not diminish the fact that streets must be cleared of obstructions—be these illegally parked or stalled vehicles or those involved in accidents—to ensure the smooth flow of traffic.

Atienza is clearly cognizant of this need, although very few motorists are. The mayor has received a lot of flak because of my company's towing activities. Such flak can be bothersome, even disastrous especially during an electoral campaign period.

Knowing this, we actually volunteered to suspend our operations at least until the campaign ended, but he insisted that we go on as usual so as to avoid the possibility of the city's major roads being clogged again, mainly by illegal parked vehicles.

Besides, ever since we started towing, neither the mayor nor his men or his family have interfered in our operations. In fact, the very first thing he told us when he awarded us the towing contract for Manila was "not to give in to anyone." Taking this instruction to heart, we have dealt fairly and equally with barangay officials, city councilors and even policemen as with private motorists.

The good thing is that the people of Manila have taken due notice of what Tulfo has pointed out. We have heard from various Manileños that they will vote for Atienza precisely because of his performance. (The only other instance when we heard similar comments from voters was in the case of Joey Lina during his gubernatorial campaign in Laguna in 1998.)

As a student of politics, I welcome such sentiments as refreshing and highly encouraging. But it is a sad fact that almost everywhere else, our people probably voted for candidates simply because they were popular or good-looking or moneyed or "*mabait*"—without bothering to consider actual performance.—**ROBERT C. NACIANCENO, president and CEO, Hagar Towing Services Inc.**

Steniel denies link with coup fund-raiser

WE would like to express our concern regarding the appearance of our company name Steniel, that was erroneously associated with Henry Lim and his alleged participation in financing the Edsa III coup plot as reported by the INQUIRER last May 9. The report written by Christine Herrera said in part: "The fund-raising in Manila was allegedly led by Henry Lim, owner of Steniel Paper Corp., and Sebastian Chua, owner of Star Paper Corp."

Steniel Manufacturing Corp. is not in any way connected with Henry Lim or Steniel Paper Corp.

As this has already raised issues from our principals and major clients, we would like you to publish a clarification to clear the name of Steniel Manufacturing Corp. of any involvement in the Edsa III event.

Thank you and we hope for your immediate action on this matter.—**DANG N. LUNETA, corporate communications officer, Steniel Manufacturing Corp., Gateway Business Park, Javalera, General Trias, Cavite**

Selective prosecution creating confusion

THE GOVERNMENT should not trivialize the antics of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago. She should be arrested and charged with the rest of the plotters. People who have caused considerable damage shouldn't be allowed to get away with it. The government's attitude of selective prosecution is sending confusing signals to those who gathered at Edsa II and are raising eyebrows.

The selectiveness is apparent even in the plunder case filed before the Sandiganbayan by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto. Everyone remembers Jaime Dichaves who attempted to shield Joseph Estrada during the impeachment trial by claiming that the Jose Velarde account was his. Just before Edsa II, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. had in fact asked the Senate impeachment court to cite Dichaves for contempt for doing so in the face of Clarissa Ocampo's testimony. The news reports on the justice department's complaint regarding the GSIS-SSS-Belle transaction also identifies Dichaves as the conduit of the bribe money given to Erap. And yet he is not among those charged with Erap in the plunder case filed by the Ombudsman. People are asking why.

The private prosecutors should wake up.—**MICHAEL ANGELO S. LOPEZ, 936 P. Paredes, Sampaloc, Manila**

Purposeful civil service

WHEN a Filipino college graduate enters government service at age 21, he has 44 more job years till his compulsory retirement at 65. But still, he invariably retires without any achievement he can call his legacy to the service. In that time, he has allowed himself to be enslaved by routine tasks that have lowered his IQ through disuse, and robbed him of an appropriate legacy.

Isn't it time every civil servant adopted a "legacy-focused career husbanding" mind-set? This will ensure his retiring from the service with a legacy that will enhance the lives of other civil servants and make them remember him long after he fades away.—**T.B. ABAYAN, 13-A Banning St., North Fairview, QC**

Revisions needed in SSS, GSIS charters

WITH FORMER Government Service Insurance System and Social Security Service administrators confessing they betrayed the trust of millions of their members by yielding to then President Joseph Estrada's instructions to put some of their investment funds in his cronies' dubious ventures, enacting laws that can better safeguard the GSIS and SSS funds are in order.

Wanting to keep one's post in the SSS or GSIS makes any administrator fair game to the appointing authority who wants to dip into the systems' wealth of funds held in trust for their members. It did not take long for deposed President Estrada to use huge amounts of idle funds for his and two of his cronies' personal gain.

What most GSIS and SSS members still do not fully realize is that they are now left with unrecoverable losses running into millions of pesos that otherwise would have meant more benefits for them. With the members of both systems adding up to several millions, we wonder why this issue has not been widely discussed. With a new Congress to be elected, we hope the winners will take up remedial legislation that will ensure that the raids into the SSS and the GSIS funds will never occur again.

The GSIS and SSS are now primary financial institutions. How their investments are managed has a great influence on the investment climate. This being the case, appointees to the top posts in these institutions should be confirmed by the Commission of Appointments. When the chair and administrator is the same person, check and balance is highly compromised. This should never be allowed.

Another much needed change in the charter of both systems is a provision requiring that their investments be managed by several independent professional financial management groups or reputable banks and investment houses. Bidding can be made to ensure that only those that guarantee higher yields will get a slice. Such bidding should be supervised jointly by the finance secretary, the trade secretary and the chairpersons of these institutions. With foreign investments now coming in trickles, a judicious use of SSS and GSIS funds can help speed up economic recovery.—**MARY JOAN A. ANGELES, 6 Pinto St., Rancho Estate 1, Marikina City**

Good news, bad news

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I WROTE this on May 18, 1998, a week after the presidential elections of that year.

"Right now, there is no doubt in my mind that if Noli de Castro ran for president in 2004, he would win handily. No need to pass through the route of senator and vice president. He could seek the presidency itself and get it. I can't see anybody beating him—not even Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Exposure for exposure, personality for personality, poster for poster, De Castro should win hands down He's positively ubiquitous, he's veritably omnipresent. He's become as much part of the life of the average citizen as rice and beer. Well, if he does become president, he can always start the State of the Nation Address by intoning, '*Magandang gabi* (pause), *bayan*'."

I saw some of the discussions on TV the last few days, and many of them were still riveted toward the Gloria-Erap divide, or contest. Well, that divide, or contest, is real enough and will probably continue to hound the government for some time. But there is a new equation that looms in the horizon, and it has De Castro for its variable. He is the weight that could upset the apple cart, or the monkey wrench that could mess up Ms Macapagal's current setup. He is the phenomenon in these elections. Though not an unexpected one: I kept telling people before the elections that he wouldn't just win hands down, he would leave the No. 2 biting the dust. That seems almost certain now.

I wrote the paragraph above in the context of Loren Legarda finishing first in the 1998 senatorial race. Which clearly showed, I said, that ABS-CBN had ceased to be an ordinary TV network and become a maker of kings—or indeed a supplier of them. It also showed, I said, the entrance of another category of the "popular" candidate, who was the TV personality, the previous ones being movie stars and basketball players. Like the previous two, the TV personality was the product of media. More than the previous two, the TV personality was the more exposed to the public, vicariously becoming part of the household.

I said that impressive as Legarda's feat was, it would be nothing compared to what De Castro would do if he joined the fray. Which I hoped he wouldn't, as a matter of self-restraint—too late now. No, I am not surprised at all that he should be a runaway winner in these elections. I did not think then that he needed to go the senatorial route to seek higher office. I do not think so now.

The development is good and bad. It augurs well and ill for Philippine politics.

The bad, or ill, is that it deepens "entertainment politics" even more. Something, by the way, neither Francis Pangilinan nor Ralph Recto, presumably the voices of "new politics," may ever rail against: Sharon Cuneta and Vilma Santos should really be holding office in the Senate, they're the ones the voters voted for. After Erap, De Castro will be the next biggest media creation to hit this country. I'm perfectly willing to go out on a limb and say that. How big he will be, well, that pretty much is simply all up to him.

A group of people asked me last week what mythical quality De Castro has that I should put him on par with Erap. Well, De Castro may not loom larger than life, as Erap does with his Asiong Salonga persona, but he has something just as powerful, if not more so. He has insinuated himself not just into the Filipino household but into the heart of that household. He has been taken into the bosom of the Filipino family. He is more than Kuya Bodjie ever was, or will be. Indeed, he is more than "Ate Gloria," which is also how the President is trying to sell herself, ever will be. He has become the older sibling, through a TV program that talks about *aswangs* and religious cults and OFWs and life in the slums, in ways that Dante Ang, Ms Macapagal's political makeover artist, will be hard put to make her into.

Which has tremendous implications for 2004. A family that watches TV together, votes together.

The good, or well, that this does for Philippine politics is that it may just compel Ms Macapagal to take the poor deathly seriously. For the simple reason that she will never be able to outdo either Erap (can an ousted president run again?) or De Castro in the *papogi*, or being-one-with-the-poor, department. That, not quite incidentally, has been the source of her popularity—her makeover into the "Nora Aunor of Philippine politics." The "Ate Gloria" clearly pursues that image: Nora Aunor was/is also "Ate Guy." Ms Macapagal became popular not for anything she did—on the contrary, she has built a political career dodging hard choices and avoiding controversy like the plague—but for successfully selling a packaged image. That image was the one that appeared in posters, which catapulted her to No. 1 in the 1995 elections, from a poor showing in a previous one. She subsequently built on it by truly taking opportunity of photo opportunities, cradling a child in a fire at an orphanage, welcoming OFWs at the airport.

During the height of "Edsa III," she kept reminding people that, like Erap, she too was popular, having been the runaway winner in the vice-presidential elections in 1998. True, but she forgets the quality of the opposition. Her popularity, which in the end is built on show biz too, may work against an Ed Angara or Kit Tatad, but it will not work against an Erap or De Castro. Her popularity is built on **exactly** the same material as Erap's and De Castro's—on media projection—with the important difference that the image of the first two is more ingrained in their persons while hers is a little more alien to her. It is invented and manufactured. That is not offset by the fact that she is now President and commands vast resources, and is the natural cynosure of the public's eyes. De Castro is now senator and commands vast resources too, and with judicious use of the media should remain firmly centered in the public's eyes as well.

Which leaves Ms Macapagal the option of winning the mass vote not by image-building but by nation-building, not by myth but by accomplishment. Can she do it? Well, it will mean reorienting her priorities, giving to the poor rather than to the businessmen first, going to Payatas rather than Makati first. And it will mean talking the language of the poor, which is more than just eating with bare hands in some farmer's hut or factory hand's hovel. There is a difference, quite incidentally, in the way Erap eats that way and Ms Macapagal does, which is that Erap enjoys it. Richard Nixon couldn't understand too why when Harry Truman cursed in public he was thought of as being homey, while when he did so he was thought of as bad-mouthed. Some people simply know how to curse. These things aren't easy.

But what choice has Ms Macapagal got?

* * *

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The WORLD

Britain proposes major easing of UN sanctions on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS—In a major policy shift expected to get US backing, Britain has proposed lifting UN sanctions on civilian goods entering Iraq but toughening enforcement of the decade-old arms embargo against Saddam Hussein's government.

The British proposal, which is being incorporated into a Security Council resolution, was developed in consultation with Washington and is part of a broader review of Iraq policy by both countries, a British official said Wednesday.

If approved by the powerful Security Council, the British proposal would mark the first significant easing of sanctions that have been in place since the Iraqi Army invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Britain said it got a positive response to the proposal from the three other council members with veto power, France, Russia and China, as well as from Iraq's neighbors.

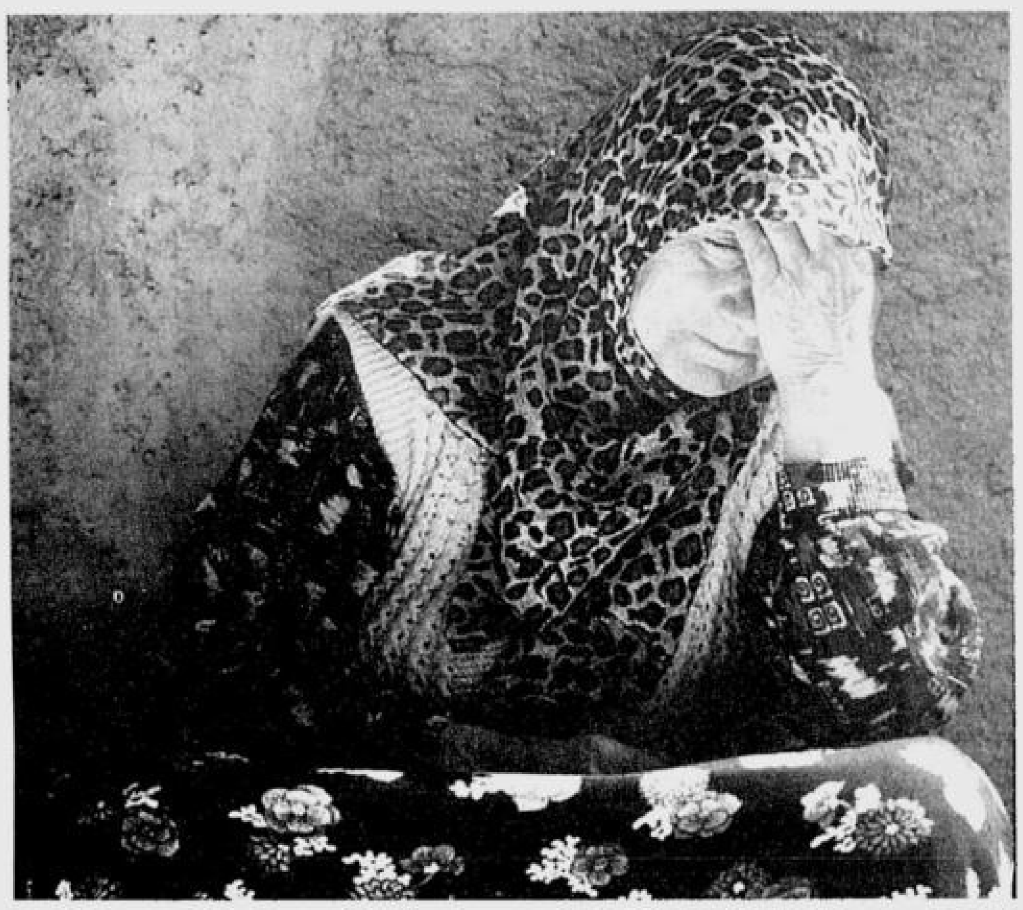
The United States and Britain seek to prevent Iraq from reviving its weapons-building programs while ensuring that sanctions don't hurt Iraqi citizens, the British official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

US State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said Wednesday that talks were still going on in capitals and at the United Nations.

"The goal of this process is to control effectively Iraq's ability to buy weapons, to control Iraq's ability to threaten its neighbors . . . with weapons of mass destruction," Boucher said in Washington.

"So on the one hand, you will have a set of controls that do that. On the other hand, we will smooth out the process and enable civilian goods to reach the Iraqi people," he said.

The British plan would allow all goods to enter Iraq except those on a UN list of military-related items, and it would allow the resumption of all commercial and cargo flights in and out of the country as long as they are inspected at the departure points, the British official said. *AP*



WITHOUT A SON ON TOP OF BEING HOMELESS REUTERS

Guscevic Fatima, a Bosnian Muslim refugee woman from the Serb-controlled town of Visegrad, is a picture of profound grief as she sits by the remains of her dead son in an identification center in the Bosnian town of Visoko May 16. Bosnian Muslims gathered in Visoko in an attempt to find some evidence of their missing relatives killed at the beginning of the 1992-95 war among 135 bodies found in mass graves earlier this year and displayed in a morgue.

207 farm workers kidnapped

BOGOTA, Colombia—Suspected right-wing paramilitary fighters kidnapped as many as 207 workers off palm oil plantations in Colombia in what the Army described as the country's biggest mass kidnapping.

President Andres Pastrana said Wednesday night that "it appears" paramilitaries were behind the abductions of mostly young men working on the plantations in the remote eastern state of Casanare.

The president told reporters that troops were being deployed into the area, but would tread carefully to avoid endangering the hostages—some of whom he said were minors.

In light of the kidnapping, Pastrana pleaded for Colombia's armed factions to leave civilians out of the 37-year armed conflict.

The workers were seized Tuesday as they walked home, rode buses and even bicycles after their shifts at several plantations in the Villanueva area, armed forces chief Gen. Fernando Tapias said. The area is 130 km east of the capital, Bogota, in steamy lowlands on the other side of a high Andean mountain range. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Plane crash kills 34 Turkish army men

YAGMURLU, Turkey—The Turkish military suffered a major blow when 34 officers and soldiers from the elite Special Forces were killed here in a plane crash: It was the military's worst air disaster as well as the single biggest loss for Turkey's Special Forces. The officers and soldiers were killed Wednesday when their transport plane crashed into an apricot and beet field in this southeastern village, some 660 km southeast of Ankara. The commandos of the Special Forces are highly regarded among Turks for their successful battles behind enemy lines against Kurdish rebels, and for their capture two years ago of rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan. Military experts were studying data from the plane's black box to determine the cause of the accident. One military official blamed technical malfunction. *AP*

Pre-dawn shootout rocks Gaza Strip

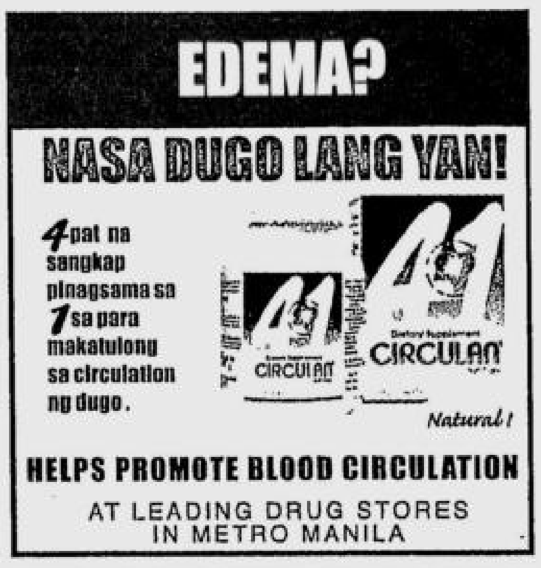
JERUSALEM—Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen traded fire in a pre-dawn shootout yesterday in the southern Gaza Strip, leaving four Palestinian civilians wounded, including a 63-year-old man, officials said. Also, Israeli tanks and bulldozers entered a Palestinian refugee camp in another part of southern Gaza, flattening agricultural land and firing tank shells, Palestinian security officials said. In the first confrontation, the Israeli Army said it responded to fire from a house in Khan Yunis. The elderly Palestinian man, Nasser Abu Shanab, was hit in the chest and seriously wounded, according to Palestinian security officials said. In the second incident, the Israeli bulldozers rumbled into the Rafah refugee camp, razing several greenhouses, the Palestinians said. During the nearly eight months of Mideast violence, Israel has described most of its military operations as direct responses to specific attacks by Palestinian militants. However, in recent weeks, Israel says it has been initiating actions against Palestinians suspected of organizing or carrying out attacks, and has begun entering Palestinian territory. *AP*

Refugee status sought for N. Koreans

UNITED NATIONS—South Korean activists have submitted to UN officials a petition signed by 11.8 million people calling for refugee status for North Koreans who have fled to China. The Commission to Help North Korean Refugees launched the campaign in 1999 to pressure China to grant the status to the North Koreans, which would bring them closer to receiving UN-supplied food and shelter. Gillian Sorenson, assistant secretary general of UN external relations, and Nicolas Bwakira of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees accepted the petition Wednesday at the United States in New York. Kim Sang-chul, the activist group's chief, has said all but 120,000 signatures the group collected are from South Koreans. *AP*

Taiwan's Chen: US need not consult China

TAIPEI—Taiwan's president struck back at China yesterday for opposing his upcoming US trip, arguing that America is an independent nation that should only have to ask its public and lawmakers—not Beijing—about whether Taiwanese leaders can visit. President Chen Shui-bian plans to briefly visit New York next week on his way to Latin America, and he'll stop in Houston on his way home—a trip the official China Daily has said involves a "despicable breach of trust" by Washington. The US stopovers anger China because it insists that Taiwan is a breakaway province that must reunify with the mainland. Beijing argues that by welcoming Taiwanese leaders, Washington is encouraging the island to move closer to independence. *AP*



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• PLANNING, DIRECTING AND CONTROLLING SKILLS FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS May 19, 2001	Saturday	1:00PM–5:00PM
• PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT May 19, 2001	Saturday	1:00PM–5:00PM
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• BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE May 26 – June 9, 2001	Saturday	1:00PM–5:00PM
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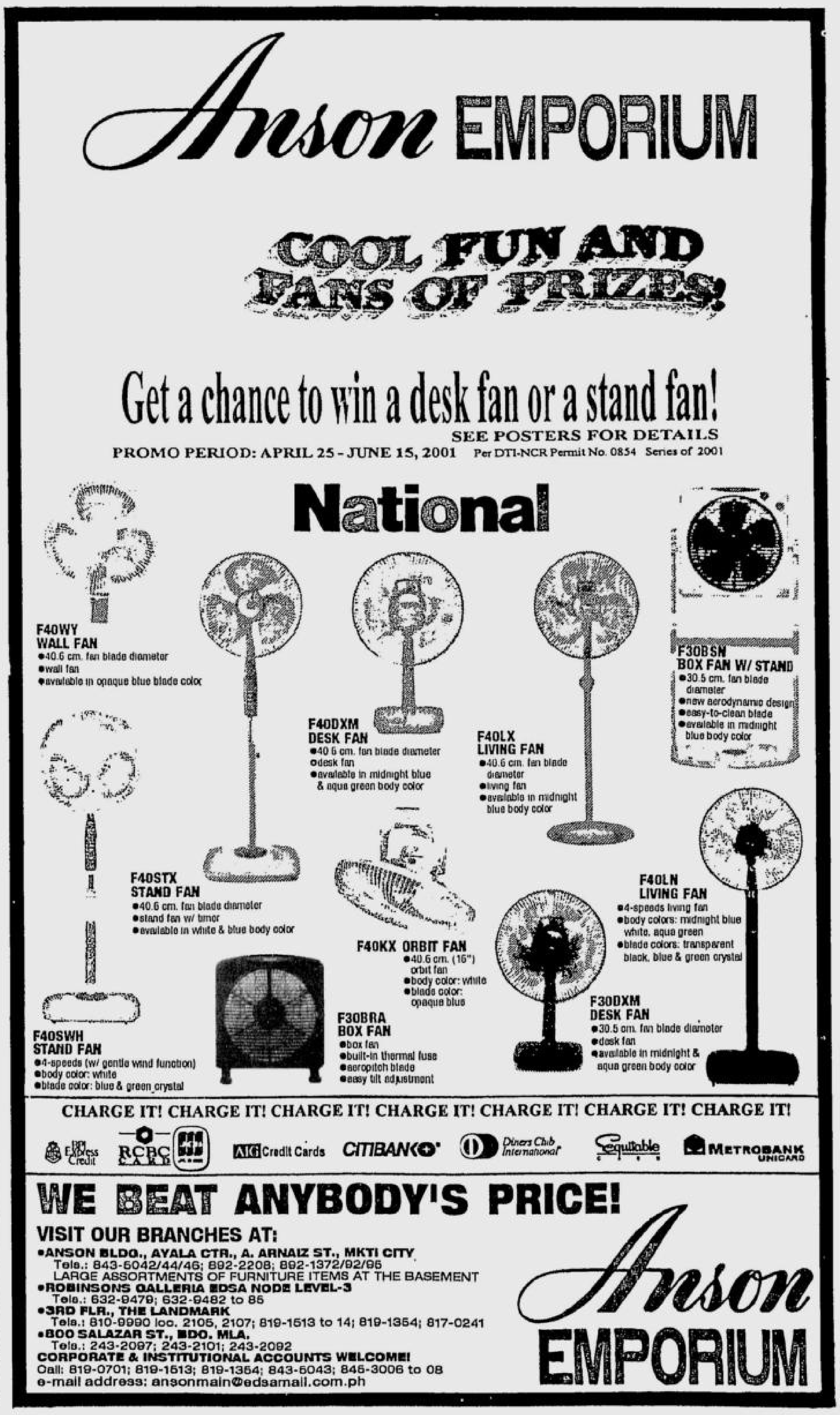

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Japan's PM spurns China call to amend history book

KOIZUMI

TOKYO—Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi yesterday said Japan would not amend a controversial new history textbook despite repeated urging by China.

"I know there are various opinions but we cannot revise it," Koizumi told reporters.

He was speaking after a Chinese foreign ministry official summoned a Japanese Embassy official late Wednesday to lodge another protest that the school textbook glosses over Japan's militarist past.

The Chinese official said the history textbook compiled by Japanese rightist scholars "advocates imperialism; and whitewashes and denies Japan's history of aggression," Xinhua news agency reported.

Koizumi said Japan would "take the criticism gravely and strive for improving Japan-China relations by collecting wisdom on how we can understand and respect each other's stances."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda told a news conference that Tokyo would respond to the Chinese request "sincerely."

The education ministry, which supervises screening of school textbooks, will "consider how to cope with the matter after examining the content of the (Chinese) request," official Toru Funahashi said.

But he said Japan "cannot revise a textbook once it has been approved, unless it contains errors of fact."

"Since we have strict screening, the approved textbooks do not contain mistakes basically."

The Japanese Embassy in Beijing issued a list of eight areas in which China had grievances concerning the textbook's version of history, according to Kyodo News agency.

They include claims that Manchuria benefited economically from investment by Japanese heavy industries whereas in fact China maintains Japan plundered the resources there on a vast scale.

Beijing also complained that the Nanjing Massacre is only briefly mentioned and there is no mention of Japan's notorious Unit 731, which conducted experiments on live Chinese prisoners to study germ warfare and the treatment of combat wounds.

The textbooks have also provoked anger in South Korea where a series of anti-Japanese protests have been held.

South Korea called off a joint naval drill with Japan, slated for early next month, while demanding that Tokyo revise 35 "distorted" passages in the new Japanese books.

The Tokyo government has approved the textbook after 137 modifications. But it still avoids references to Japan's pre-World War II invasion of its Asian neighbors and plays down events such as the Nanjing massacre and the use of tens of thousands of Asian women as sex slaves for Japanese troops. *AFP*

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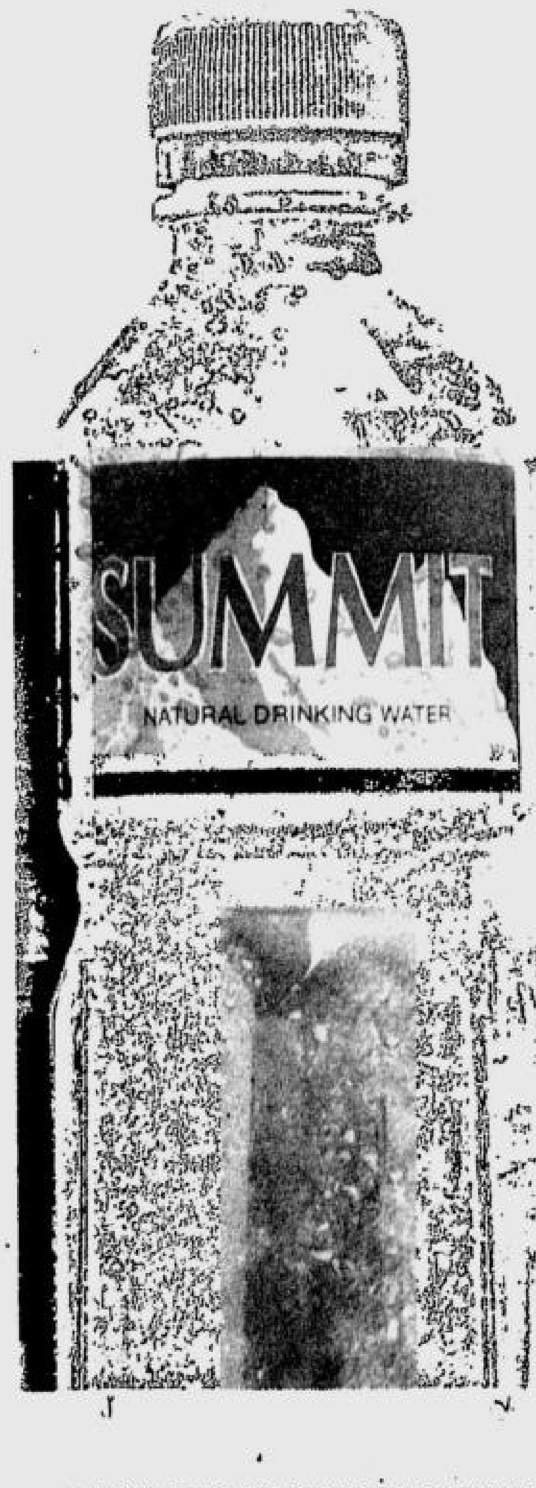

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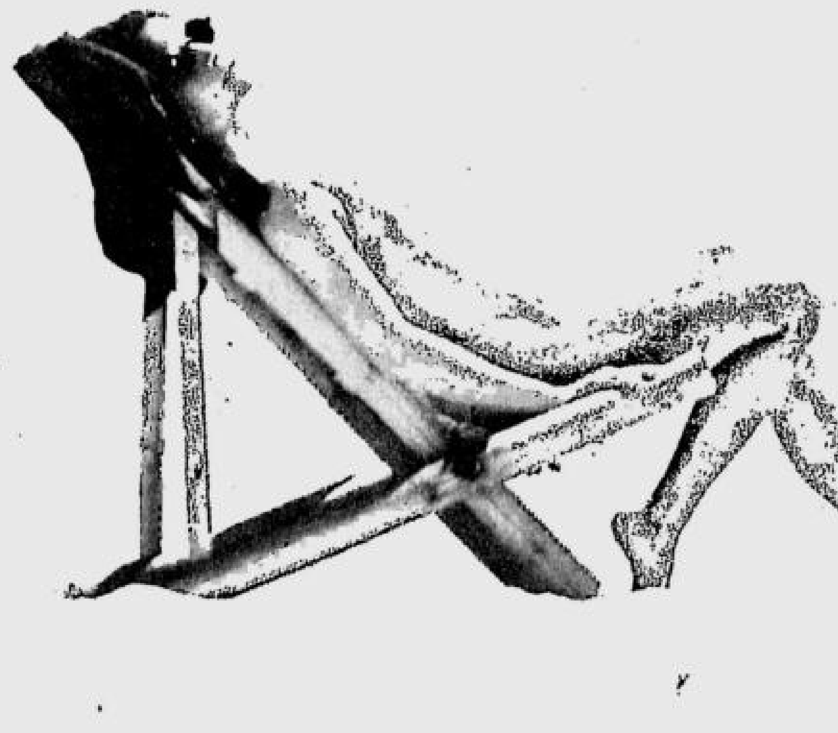


Bush: US faces 'most serious' energy shortage

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush, in his much-awaited energy plan, will warn on Thursday that the United States faces "the most serious energy shortage since the oil embargo of the 1970s."

Bush will order federal agencies to dismantle regulatory barriers that slow gas, electrical, coal and nuclear power production and propose opening federal lands for oil drilling.

He also will encourage conservation, setting aside most of the $5 billion in new tax incentives for people who buy energy-efficient cars or use alternative energies. The 163-page policy, developed by a task force headed by Vice President Dick Cheney, also orders review of fuel economy standards with an eye toward possibly requiring them to be more fuel-efficient.

"A fundamental imbalance between supply and demand defines our nation's energy crisis," says the report, a portion of which was released Wednesday night by the White House. "This imbalance, if allowed to continue, will inevitably undermine our economy, our standard of living, and our national security."

While Bush compared today's problems to the 1970s, energy experts have noted that there are plenty of supplies of crude oil and gasoline. In the 1970s, a disruption of oil imports caused long gas lines and fuel rationing in the United States.

In 1973, Arab nations imposed an oil embargo in retaliation for US support of Israel, and in 1979 when religious revolutionaries in Iran overthrew the shah, they cut off that country's oil spigot.

The White House was releasing the report Thursday in connection with Bush's speech on the topic in St. Paul, Minnesota.

To sell his plan, Bush must navigate among hundreds of issue groups, governors and local officials with competing concerns.

Even before it was released, Democrats said the policy would endanger the environment and do nothing to lower prices now. Some Republicans demanded quick fixes not found in the report, fearing the public will blame them in 2002 congressional elections if energy prices soar.

Bush and Cheney are especially vulnerable to criticism because they made fortunes in the oil business.

Feeling the heat, Bush promised on Wednesday that federal regulators will ensure that "nobody in America gets illegally overcharged" for energy. His advisers said for the first time his policy might offer some short-term relief, but only if the promise of future supplies drives down prices among investors who speculate in oil trends. *AP*

Resign, Wahid's party tells Megawati

JAKARTA—Indonesia's leadership crisis deepened yesterday as President Abdurrahman Wahid's party called for his deputy Megawati Sukarnoputri to quit, openly challenging her loyalty to the embattled leader.

"It is our suggestion that she resign," National Awakening Party (PKB) deputy secretary general Chotibul Umam said.

"Because she is no longer effective in leading the Cabinet, and because she is said to support a special session"—a reference to a possible sitting of the upper house of parliament to impeach Wahid on corruption charges.

Umam said PKB was "fed up" with Megawati. "She is not consistent."

PKB secretary general Muhaimmin Iskandar told SCTV television that if Megawati no longer agreed with Wahid she should emulate former Philippine vice president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and resign.

Macapagal quit after the then-president Joseph Estrada became embroiled in a corruption scandal, and later was installed as president in a military-backed popular uprising.

"If she wants to engage in opposition, then she should follow Macapagal and resign and only after then oppose the president," Iskandar said.

'Stupid'

Megawati's Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP) rejected the PKB call as "extremely stupid."

"Megawati is not the problem, Gus Dur (Wahid's nickname) is the problem," PDIP legislator Julius Usman said, adding that PKB's statements showed they were "panicking."

Legislators, who have already issued two censure motions against Wahid over allegations of corruption and incompetence, will decide on May 30 whether to call for a special session.

The majority of parties had already agreed to vote for the special session, PDIP parliamentary leader, Arifin Panigoro, said Wednesday.

Megawati was quoted earlier this week as saying that a special session was "unstoppable."

Leaders of her PDIP have confirmed that she sees this as "constitutionally logical" but say she does not necessarily support impeachment.

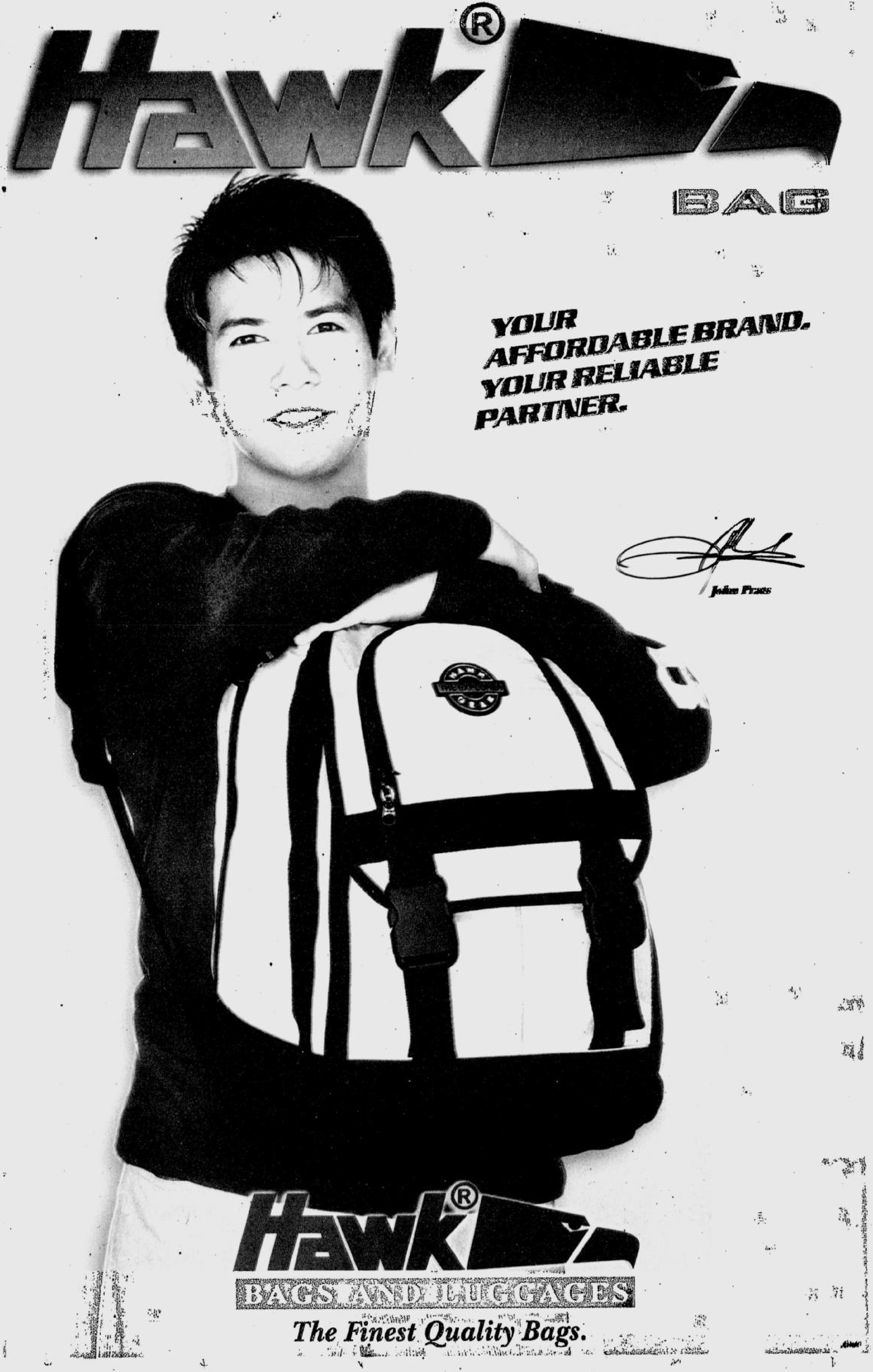
Megawati, who stands to succeed Wahid if he resigns or is impeached, has remained publicly silent on the leadership crisis that has gripped Indonesia for most of the year.

Fed up

But PDIP officials have said she is fed up with Wahid, is ready to replace him, and is not interested in a compromise power-sharing proposal—which Wahid has himself rejected.

The PKB's Umam said if Megawati really supported a special session she should resign and pull her PDIP members out of the Cabinet.

"If she has already agreed to the holding of a special session, that means she is following the logic of a parliamentary system, in which case she should quit as vice president and take her people out of the Cabinet," he said. *AFP*



Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Comelec task force formed to settle rows

THE COMMISSION on Elections is forming a task force composed of lawyers who will help expedite the resolution of disputes delaying the canvassing of votes in Central Luzon.

At least 90 percent of election officers in the region's 111 towns, seven component cities and two highly urbanized cities are not lawyers, according to Nicolas Fontelera, Comelec regional election supervisor.

Except in Pampanga, provincial canvassing has hardly started in Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Zambales because of pre-proclamation protests and the manual counting of votes at the barangay level, Fontelera told reporters on Thursday.

He could not immediately cite the number of protests filed since Monday's elections but said three disputes in Nueva Ecija have stalled canvassing in San Isidro and Gapan towns and in San Jose City.

The counting at the barangay level has also been slow because teachers have to tally the votes garnered by more than 160 party-list groups, he said.

There were still no updates on the alleged missing ballots in 10 precincts in Orani, three precincts in Dinalupihan and two precincts in Mariveles. These were not brought to their respective municipal board of canvassers, a report from Camp Olivas, regional police headquarters, showed.

A three-hour power outage beginning at 10 a.m. Thursday affected the City of San Fernando, venue of the provincial canvassing in Pampanga.

Resigned

In Isabela, two election officers in Santiago City and Cabatuan town resigned as chairs of the Board of Election Inspectors amid allegations that they were favoring certain candidates and were not familiar with election laws and rules.

Election officer Jerby Cortez resigned as chair of the Santiago board of canvassers amid charges that he was showing bias for the Lakas-NUCD.

In Cabatuan, election officer Francisco Cabacungan resigned as election board chair along with his member, Dr. Pacifico Lopez, due to allegations that they were allied to a mayoral bet.

The resignations have delayed the canvassing of votes in Santiago and Cabatuan.

In Nueva Ecija, members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines are helping build up cases of alleged massive vote-buying in two of the four districts.

Subjects of the complaint of vote-buying are Aurelio Umali and Eleuterio Violago, congressional candidates in the third and second districts.

Umali (LDP) won in the unofficial tally against closest rival Edward Thomas Joson (Balane), while Violago (Lakas-NUCD) trounced reelectionist Rep. Simeon Garcia Jr.

Both Umali and Violago laughed off the allegations. They said their opponents could not accept their impending defeat.

In Sta. Rosa, followers of mayoral candidate Antonio Romero (Kampi) staged a rally in front of the town hall to show support to their losing candidate. Romero claimed that irregularities marred the conduct of the elections in the town.

Barricade

In Cagayan, at least 1,000 residents barricaded the town hall of Gonzaga town following reports that the number of votes cast exceeded the number of registered voters in the town.

At the provincial capitol in Tuguegarao City, canvassing of votes was suspended on Thursday because Comelec lawyers noted that the names of voters and number of votes for the gubernatorial race in Camalaniugan town appeared to have been tampered with.

Comelec officials summoned members of the town's board of canvassers and ordered them to retally the votes in the presence of the provincial board of canvassers.

First district congressional candidate Victor Padilla also said he would file charges against the Comelec for the alleged disenfranchisement of some 30 percent of voters in Lallo, Baggao and Camalaniugan towns.

Padilla was trailing reelectionist Rep. Juan "Jackie" Ponce-Enrile Jr.

Ilocos Sur

In Ilocos Sur, the protest staged by 200 supporters of mayoral bet Roque Verzosa in Tagudin town delayed the canvassing of votes on Wednesday.

Incumbent Mayor Jose Bunoan won over Verzosa by garnering 6,580 votes over Verzosa's 5,601 votes, based on the Comelec's final tally.

In Baguio City, at least two losing mayoral candidates said they would file protests for alleged massive fraud in the polls.

Outgoing Baguio Rep. Bernardo Vergara of the local coalition Timpuyog ti Ili was leading four other mayoral candidates.

The Comelec almost lost its central tallying station for Baguio ballots after its reservation to use the Baguio Convention Center lapsed on Thursday.

In Iloilo, the Namfrel claimed that as much as four out of ten election returns in Iloilo City and province have "mistakes and inconsistencies."

Arturo Salazar, Namfrel chair in Iloilo, said the mistakes ranged from padding votes to erroneous entries in the certificates of canvass.

Clash

In General Santos City, policemen on Wednesday clashed with supporters of a reelectionist councilor who went on a hunger strike to protest alleged massive vote-buying and cheating in Monday's elections.

Pandemonium broke out in front of City Hall when truncheon-wielding policemen dispersed about 1,000 protesters led by Councilor Rodrigo "Boy" Olarte (Lakas-NUCD) around 11:45 a.m.

Olarte and three other persons suffered injuries and were brought to the St. Elizabeth Hospital.

Rocks raining from different directions shattered the glass wall at the façade of City Hall. *Reports from Tonette Orejas and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and Estanislao Caldez, Villamor Visaya Jr., Leoncio Balbin Jr. and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau; Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Palawan canvass stopped

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Canvassing of election returns in this city was suspended yesterday afternoon after Mayor Edward Hagedorn, who is running for governor, protested alleged massive fraud in Monday's elections.

The local Commission on Elections ordered a recess to ease tension at City Hall, venue of the canvassing, after supporters of Hagedorn threatened to disrupt the proceedings.

Tension began at 8 a.m. when Hagedorn's lawyer requested for a suspension, alleging massive vote-buying and other irregularities.

When the request was denied, Hagedorn appeared at the venue and was reported by local journalists to have told the people that there would be bloodshed unless the request was granted.

Police augmentation forces were sent to City Hall to maintain peace and order. Supt. Jacinto Dino, police provincial director, came to help ease the tension.

During a conference, Hagedorn, Dino and Comelec city officer in charge Arsenio Guste agreed to listen to the contending sides before the canvassing would be resumed.

Guste said they decided to have a recess and resume canvassing at 2 p.m. today when Hagedorn's lawyers would have filed their complaint.

Hagedorn said he was informed by his supporters about discrepancies in the election returns and their own tallies.

He also alleged that some candidates had resorted to massive vote-buying. He declined to elaborate.

He denied using his influence to delay the declaration of the winners.

Radio reports citing unofficial counting of election returns showed incumbent Gov. Joel Reyes leading the gubernatorial race and his partymate, city mayoral hopeful Dennis Socrates enjoying a big lead over Hagedorn's candidate, Jun de Guzman. *Ruelle Albert Castro and Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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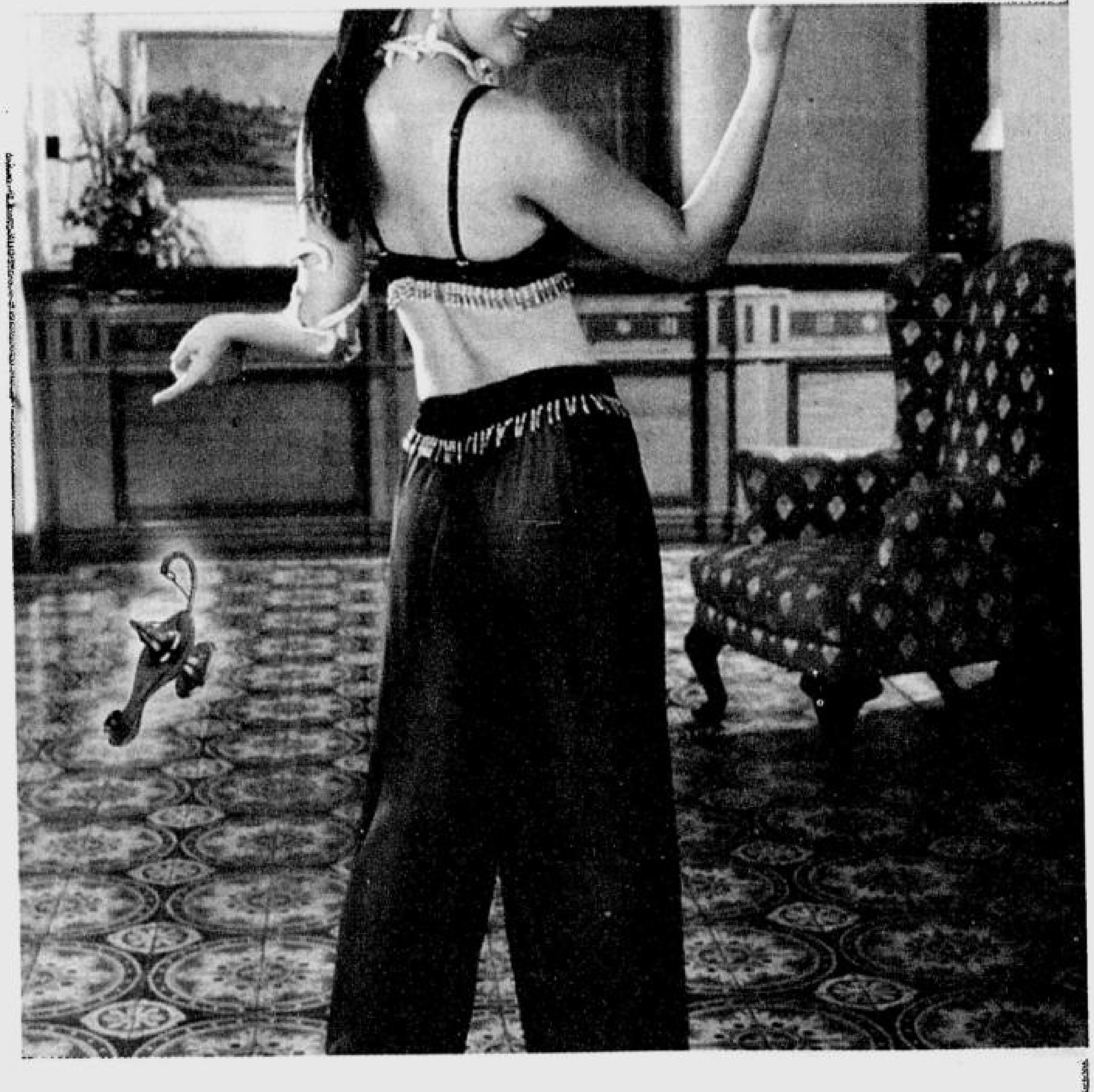

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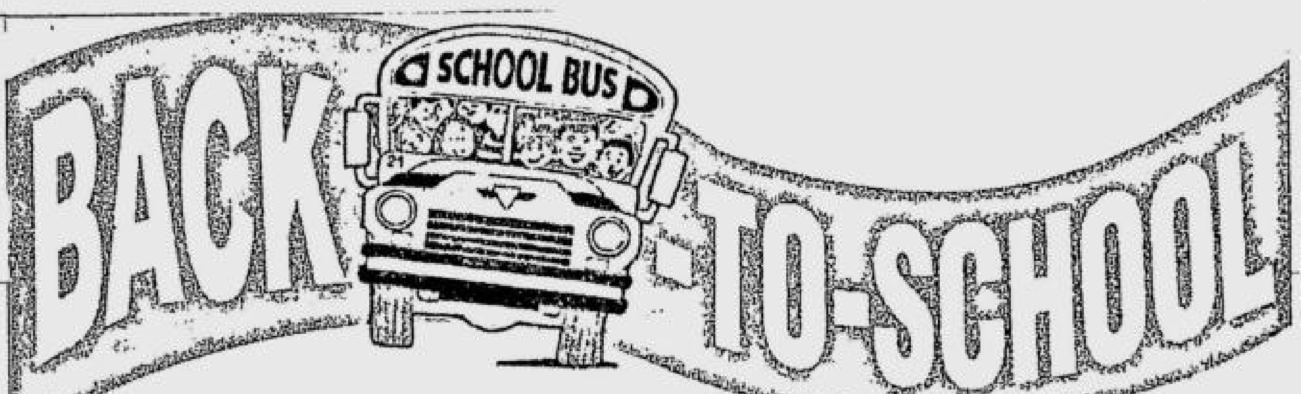

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1 kilo
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SRP P56.60
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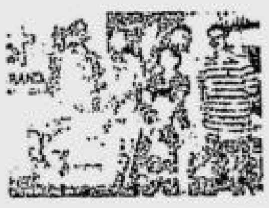

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Who's winning, who's losing in the provinces

CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

(Namfrel: As of 4 p.m., May 17)

ABRA

(Namfrel: 14 towns, complete)

Lone District	
Luis Bersamin Jr. (PDSP)	27,215
Rodolfo Millare (Lakas-NUCD)	8,530
Governor	
Ernesto Pacuño Sr. (Lakas-NUCD)	16,554
Vicente Valera (PDSP-PPC)	28,295

APAYAO

Lone District	
Elias Bulut Jr. (NPC)	2,351
Noble Perez (Lakas-NUCD)	1,621
Governor	
Elias Bulut Sr. (NPC)	2,351
Ambaro Sagle (Reporma-LM)	731

BENGUET

(Comelec: As of 4 p.m.)

Lone District	
Ronald Cosalan (Lakas-NUCD)	9,921
Samuel Dangwa (Reporma-LM)	19,942
Governor	
Raul Molintas (NPC)	12,663
Robert Tinda-an (Lakas-NUCD)	10,324

IFUGAO

(Namfrel: complete)

Lone District	
Evangeline Cappleman (NPC)	19,936
Solomon Chungalao (LP)	23,320
Governor	
Teodoro Baguilat Jr.	20,520
Gualberto Lumauig (Lakas)	12,159

CAGAYAN VALLEY

CAGAYAN

District 3	
Rodolfo Aguinaldo (NPC)	39,954
Manuel Mamba (Lakas-NUCD)	51,472
Jose Perez (Ind.)	

ISABELA

District 1	
(Comelec: 394 precincts)	
Rodolfo Albano Sr.	32,581
Aurora de Jalban	8,437
District 2	
(Comelec: 704 precincts)	
Edwin Uy (proclaimed winner)	51,5784
Simplicio Domingo II	23,791
District 3	
(Comelec: 123 precincts)	
Faustino Dy III	8,044
Grace Padaca	4,432
District 4	
(Comelec: 385 precincts)	
Antonio Abaya	25,160
Giorgigi Aggabao	20,458

NUEVA VIZCAYA

(Prov'l Election Monitoring Center: Complete)

Lone District	
Carlos Padilla	32,407
Ernesto Salun-at	9,746
Governor	
Rodolfo Agbayani	43,029
Lauro Palalox	524

QUIRINO

(Comelec: final)

Lone district	
Junie Cua	26,397
Josie Co	18,462
Governor	
Pedro Bacani	33,561
Dante Valencia	9,071

ILOCOS REGION

ILOCOS NORTE

District 1	
(Namfrel: 343 precincts)	
Rodolfo Fariñas (NPC)	10,390
Roque Ablan Jr. (Lakas-NUCD)	16,409
District 2	
Namfrel: 442 precincts)	
Imee Marcos (KBL)	47,455
Governor	
(Namfrel: 266 precincts)	
Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (KBL)	82,025

ILOCOS SUR

Comelec: Complete, 678 precincts)

District 1	
Salacnib Baterina (Lakas-NUCD)	48,293
Mariano Tajon (Lakas-NUCD)	39,858
District 2	
Eric Singson (LP)	49,822
Virgilio Valle (Lakas-NUCD)	36,216
Governor	
(Comelec: 1,476 of 1,666 precincts)	
Deogracias Victor S. (Bileg-Lakas)	99,803
Benjamin Baterina (PD)	19,190

LA UNION

(Comelec: 11 of 20 towns)

District 1	
(Based on 508 precincts)	
Manuel Ortega (NPC)	37,204
Michael Magsaysay (LDP)	23,418
District 2	
(Comelec: 216 precincts)	
Tomas Dumpit Sr. (NPC)	17,940
Rolando Rivera (Lakas-NUCD)	8,015
Governor	
(Comelec: 1,390 precincts)	
Victor Ortega (Lakas-NUCD)	55,792
Tomas Dumpit Jr. (LDP)	39,797

PANGASINAN

District 1	
(Comelec: 4 of 9 towns)	
Francisco Barsan (Lakas-NUCD)	16,634
Arthur Celeste (Ind.)	22,825
District 2	
(Comelec: 4 of 8 towns)	
Ernesto Castañeda (Lakas-NUCD)	9,374
Amado Espino Jr.(Lakas-NUCD)	13,588
Von Mark Mendoza (Aksyon)	10,418
District 3	
(Comelec: 1 of 5 towns, 1 city)	
Angel Baniqued	2,239
Felipe de Vera	1,635
McArthur Samson	1,602
District 4	
(Comelec: 3 of 4 towns, 1 city)	
Jose de Venecia	43,606
Alfredo Quinto	2,250
District 5	
(Comelec: 4 of 8 towns, 1 city)	
Marcos Cojuangco (NPC)	30,733
Raul Lambino (PDP-Laban)	5,122
District 6	
(Comelec: 3 of 10 towns)	
Conrado Estrella III (NPC)	18,121
Ranjit Shahani (Lakas-NUCD)	15,738
Governor	
(Comelec: 18 towns)	
Victor Agbayani (Lakas-)	151,30346,335
Teodora Cruz (LDP)	52,43618,836

CENTRAL LUZON

PAMPANGA

(Namfrel: 4,278 of 5,049 precincts)

District 1	
Francis Nepomuceno (NPC)	69,351
Willy Rivera (Lakas-NUCD)	56,455
District 2	
Zenaida Cruz-Ducut (NPC)	82,011
Emigdio Lingad (Lakas-NUCD)	41,050
District 3	
Oscar Rodriguez (Lakas-NUCD)	83,534
Rosve Henson (NPC)	36,751
District 4	
Juan Pablo Bondoc (NPC)	103,250
Governor	
Manuel Lapid	423,870
Ananias Canlas Jr.	30,391

TARLAC

(Comelec: 14 towns)

Governor	
Jose Yap	58,141
Gelacio Manalang	56,291
Hermi Aquino	35,895

NUEVA ECIJA

(Comelec: 3 towns)

District 1	
Josefina Joson	8,942
Cecilia Diaz	2,912
District 2	
Eleuterio Violago	3,819
Simeon Garcia Jr.	2,272
Governor	
Tomas Joson III	14,9678
Pacifico Fajardo	5,900

BICOL

(Namfrel: As of 12 noon)

SORSOGON

District 1	
Escudero, Francis G.(NPC)	39,139
Gohol, Gil S. (Lakas-NUCD)	13,335
District 2	
Gonzales, Rodolfo F.(Lakas-NUCD)	35,146
Solis, Jose G.(Ind.)	35,299
Governor	
Lee, Raul	101,117
Guab, Romeo	47,101
Delos Reyes, Romeo A.	4,813

CAMARINES SUR

District 1	
Andaya, Rolando Jr. G. (Lakas)	12,561
Genova, Roberto U.(LDP)	1,531
District 2	
Roco, Sulpicio Jr. S. (Aksyon)	43,882
San Buenaventura, L. E. (Lakas)	16,298
Villafuerte, Mariano Jose F. (LDP)	31,639
District 3	
Fuentebella, Felix William B. (NPC)	17,741
Pilapil, Eduardo P. (LDP)	10,898
District 4	
Alfelor, Felix (Lakas-NUCD)	21,233
Fortuno, Salvio B. (LDP)	14,343
Governor	
Villafuerte, Luis R. (LDP)	105,050
Villamayor, Nora C. (Lakas-NUCD)	41,778

CAMARINES NORTE

(Namfrel: As of 12 noon)

Lone District	
Unico, Renato Jr.	53,141
Panotes, Elmer	39,376
Governor	
Typoco, Jesus Jr.	60,750
Pimentel, Emmanuel	46,465

CATANDUANES

(Namfrel: As of 12 noon)

Lone District	
Santiago, Joseph	33,387
Verceles, Nathalie	28,878
Governor	
Sanchez, Hector	25,362
Verceles, Leandro	37,084

MASBATE

(Namfrel: As of 12 noon)

Governor	
Danao, Orlando	25,652
Kho, Antonio	27,511

ALBAY

District 1	
Karie, Ana Marie T. (Aksyon)	25,252
Lagman-Luistro, Krisel B. (Lakas)	59,556
District 2	
Imperial, Carlos D. R. (NPC-INA)	33,231
Roces, Imelda C. (Lakas-NUCD)	23,934
District 3	
Salceda, Jose Ma. S. (Lakas-NUCD)	59,980
Governor	
Bichara, Al Francis (Lakas-NUCD)	151,531
Salalima, Romeo R. (Kampi)	88,555

SOUTHERN TAGALOG

BATANGAS

(Namfrel: As of 12 noon, May 16)

District 1	
Ilao, Isidro C. (Ind.)	22
Ermita-Buhain, Elenita R.(Lakas)	7,042
Mendoza, Victor P. (Ind.)	80
Apacible, Rosario M. (LDP)	3,850
District 2	
Perez, Francisco II S. (Lakas)	5,126
Mendoza, Edgar L. (LDP)	3,662
Sulit, Edwin P (Ind.)	1,428
District 3	
Maloles, Octavio De S.	4,041
Laurel, Jose Macario L. (Lakas)	22,797
Reyes, Victoria H. (Reporma-LM)	25,040
District 4	
Gozos, Oscar L. (Lakas-NUCD)	44,297
Sabili, Meynardo A. (Reporma-LM)	18,416
Dimayuga, Jose R. (Ind.)	94
Recio, Richard G. (Lakas)	6,113
Umali, Ruben L. (NPC)	18,057
Governor	
Mandanas, Hermilando (Reporma)	158,111
Vicente Platon (PPC)	25,673
Arturo Atienza (Ind.)	269

CAVITE

(Namfrel: 3,167 precincts)

District 1	
Abaya, Plaridel M. (LP)	59,108
Guerrero, Leonardo L. (Lakas)	10,159
District 2	
Dragon, Renato P. (Ind.-Magdalo)	29,763
Remulla, Gilbert Cesar (Magdalo)	102,269
Velasco, Epimaco A. (Lakas-NUCD)	75,934
District 3	
Panlilio, Jose Marcel E. (Lakas)	24,404
Beratio, Napoleon R. (PM)	57,420
Beltran, Raymundo N. (Kampi)	24,142
Governor	
Maliksi, Erineo S. (PM)	254,779
Revilla, Ramon Jr. B. (Lakas)	186,444

LAGUNA

(Namfrel: 957 of 5,114 precincts)

District 1	
Anas, Arturo A. (Lakas-NUCD)	1,482
Joaquin, Uliran T. (NPC)	5,787
Lauron, Cornelio, Jr. T. (Ind.)	251
District 2	
Chipeco, Joaquin Jr. M. (Kampi)	17,750
Mendoza, Resituto M. (Reporma-LM)	352
Tingzon, Rodolfo R. (Lakas-NUCD)	6,573
District 3	
Amante, Vicente B. (Lakas-NUCD)	3,965
Bueser, Danton Q. (LP)	6,638
Governor	
Lina, Alberto D. (Kampi)	23,966
Lazaro, Teresita S. (PMP)	34,574

ORIENTAL MINDORO

(Namfrel: 81 precincts)

District 1	
Leviste, Charity P. (Lakas-NUCD)	59,162
Manzo, Dante A.	36,444
District 2	
Andaya, Manuel D.G. (Lakas-NUCD)	17,930
Punzalan, Jesus M. (Lakas NUCD)	17,077
Umali, Alfonso Jr. V. (LP)	22,315
Governor	
Marasigan, Bartolome Sr. L. (Lakas)	89,189
Valencia, Chalie P. (LP)	76,253

QUEZON

(Namfrel: As of May 16)

District 1	
Devanadera, Agnes S. (Lakas)	13,138
Nantes, Rafael P. (LP)	37,490
District 2	
Punzalan, Lynnette A.	46,677
Escueta, Eduardo Pio U. (LDP)	23,424
District 3	
Suarez, Aleta Catarina (LP)	3,604
Ojeda, Joselito A. (Lakas-NUCD)	1,652
District 4	
Yumul Georgilu (PMP)	14,350
Tanada, Lorenzo III R. (LP)	12,498
Governor	
Enverga, Wilfrido L. (Reporma)	96,352
Rodriguez, Eduardo T. (Lakas)	66,473

ORIENTAL MINDORO

(Namfrel: As of 12 noon)

District 1	
Leviste, Charity P. (Lakas-NUCD)	49 426
Manzo, Dante A.	27,449
District 2	
Andaya, Manuel D.G. (Lakas-NUCD)	5.116
Punzalan, Jesus M. (Lakas NUCD)	4,022
Umali, Alfonso Jr. V. (LP)	5,839
Governor	
Marasigan, Bartolome Sr. L. (Lakas)	59,359
Valencia, Chalie P. (LP)	40,545

WESTERN VISAYAS

AKLAN

(Comelec: Final, official return)

Lone district	
Gabrielle Calizo (LDP)	59,529
Leovigildo Mationg	44,271
Governor	
Florencio Miraflores (LDP)	78,905
Sergio Regodon (Lakas)	34,823

ANTIQUE

(Comelec: 8 of 18 towns)

Lone district	
Exequiel Javier (Lakas)	28,136
Jovito Plameras (NPC)	18,962
Governor	
Sally Perez-Zaldivar (LDP-Lakas)	27,286
Damian Marfil (Reforma)	16,004
Arturo Pacificador (KBL)	6,695

CAPIZ

(Namfrel: 200 of 1,483 precincts or 52%)

District 1	
Rodriguez Dadivas (LP)	14,577
Esteban Contreras (Lakas)	7,108
District 2:	
(Namfrel: As of May 16)	
Vicente Andaya III (Lakas-LDP)	3,831
Fredenil Castro (LP)	10,679
Governor	
(Namfrel: 200 of 1,483 precincts)	
Vicente Bermejo (LP)	16,861
Vicente Andaya Jr. (NPC)	7,466

ILOILO

(Radio station dyOK: As of May 16)

District 1	
Oscar Garin (NPC)	22,174
Jaime Torres (Lakas NUCD)	16,647
District 2	
Augusto Syjuco (LDP)	26,016
Rodolfo Cabado (Lakas NUCD)	17,416
District 3	
Licurgo Tirador (LDP)	4,723
Arthur Defensor (Lakas)	12,068
District 4	
Narciso Monfort (Lakas)	33,736
Ferjenel Biron (LDP),	32,791
District 5	
Rolex Suplico (LDP)	16,064
Antonio Teduco (Lakas)	4,875
Governor	
(Comelec: 471 of 5,273 precincts)	
Niel Tupas (LDP)	26,182
Demy Sonza (Lakas)	22,263

GUIMARAS

(Namfrel: 305 of 364 precincts, 83.7%)

Lone District	
Edgar Espinosa (Lakas)	24,763
Vicente de Asis (LDP)	17,449
Governor	
Rahman Nava (LDP)	28,668
Gerry Yucon (Lakas)	14,771

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

(Comelec: As of 2 p.m.)

District 1	
Julio Ledesma IV (UNA)	2,729
Salvador Rigor (ATUN)	829
District 4	
Cojuangco, Carlos (UNA)	6,807
Aguirre, Juancho (ATUN)	3,625
District 5	
Jose A. Lozada (Lakas)	5,295
Enrique Montilla (UNA)	4,045
Governor	
(Comelec: 3 of 19 towns, 1 of 13 cities)	
Joseph Maranon (UNA)	38,748
Romeo Gamboa (ATUN-Lakas)	28,901

CENTRAL VISAYAS

CEBU

(Namfrel: 4,294 of 9,376 precincts, 45.7%)

District 1	
Jose Gullas (Alayon)	32,346
Napoleon Rama Jr. (Abag-Promdi)	22,731
District 2	
Crisologo Abines (Abag-Promdi)	3,924
Simeon Kintanar (Alayon), 3,890	
District 3	
Antonio Yapha (Alayon)	29.142
Jose Soberano III (Abag-Promdi)	19,647
District 4	
Clavel Asas-Martinez (Promdi)	32,152
Doroteo Salazar (Alayon)	11,312
District 5	
Joseph Ace Durano (Alayon)	35,231
District 6	
Nerissa Ruiz (Alayon)	45,678
Efren Herrera (Promdi-PPC)	33,085
Governor	
(Namfrel: 2,728 of 7,338 precincts, 37%)	
Pablo Garcia (Promdi-PPC)	189,782
Fernando Celesta (Alayon-PNM)	169,192

CEBU CITY

(C-Cimpel: 1,566 of 2,058 precincts)

South District	
Antonio Cuenco (BOPK-Promdi)	43,629
Aristotle Batuhan (Kusug)	42,241
North District	
Raul Del Mar (BOPK-Promdi)	71,393
Florencio Villarin (Ind.)	7,755

NEGROS ORIENTAL

(Namfrel: 1,613 of 2,765 precincts)

District 1	
Jacinto V. Paras (Lakas-NUCD)	31,091
Reynaldo Tuanda (NPC)	18,593
District 2	
Emilio Macias II (NPC)	45,608
Miguel L. Romero (LDP)	30,427
District 3	
Herminio G. Teves (Lakas-NUCD)	30,754
Governor	
George P Arnaiz (NPC)	130.962
Edgar Y. Teves (Lakas NUCD)	94,005

BOHOL

(Namfrel)

District 1	
Edgardo Chatto (PDP)	53,277
Jacinto Agana (Lakas)	2,836
District 2	
Jose Jumamoy Jr. (PDP)	32,233
Roberto Cajes (Lakas)	31,113
District 3	
Eladio Jala (PDP)	46,292
Isidro Zarraga (Kampi)	29,158
Governor:	
Erico Aumentado (Lakas-Promdi)	155,454
Rene Relampagos (PDP-Laban)	129,291

EASTERN VISAYAS

LEYTE

(Comelec: 2 towns)

District 1	
Ted Failon (Ind.)	6,835
Alfredo Romualdez Jr. (NPC)	4,734
District 2	
(Comelec: 4 of 14 towns, 29%)	
Trinidad Go Apostol (Lakas-NUCD)	16,282
Carlos Romualdez (NPC)	9,044
District 4	
(Namfrel: 83% of 557 precincts)	
Eufrocino Codilla Sr. (Lakas-NUCD)	29,973
Victoria Larrazabal Locsin (NPC)	20,842
District 5	
Carmen Loreto Cari (Lakas-NUCD)	
Eriberto Veloso Loreto (LDP)	
Governor	
(Comelec: 8 of 41 towns, 1 city)	
Remedios Loreto-Petilla (Lakas)	41,941
Catalina Loreto Go (LDP)	21,685
Pido, Jesus (KBL)	587

NORTHERN SAMAR

(Namfrel: 144 of 1,336 precinct, 10.7%)

District 1	
Harlin Abayon (LP)	29,949
Teodoro Jumamil (Lakas-NUCD)	17,445
District 2	
Romualdo Vicencio (Lakas)	14,647
Jose Ong (Lakas-Ind.)	10,480
Governor	
Raul Daza (LP)	49,954
Madelaine Mendoza Ong (Lakas)	35,737

MINDANAO

AGUSAN DEL NORTE

(Comelec: 7 out of 11 towns)

District 1	
Banaag, Leovigildo (LDP)	40,003
Plaza, Charito (PPC)	35,816
District 2	
Amante, Edelmiro (Lakas-NUCD)	22,677
Libanos, Roan (PPC)	17,562
Governor	
Amante, Angelica (Lakas-NUCD)	30,002
Libanos, Sheila (PPC)	18,134

BUKIDNON

(Namfrel: As of 12 noon, May 17).

District 1	
Acosta, Nereus (LP)	11,701
Albarece, Johnny (Lakas-NUCD)	8,000
District 2	
Ancheta, Berthobal (Lakas-NUCD)	29.583
Tabios, Ernesto (LDP)	15,486
District 3	
Zubiri, Juan Miguel (Lakas-NUCD)	13,586
Montalvan, Juanita (LMP)	3,786
Governor	
Zubiri, Jose (Lakas-NUCD)	93,265
Beltran, Nemesio (LMP)	41,730

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY

(Namfrel: As of 1 p.m.)

Lone district	
Jaraula, Constantino (PnM)	48,676
Damasing, Erasmo (Lakas)	34,981

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

(Namfrel: As of 2 p.m.)

District 1	
Garcia, Florante (Reporma)	29,297
Zamora, Manuel (Lakas)	33,290
District 2	
Amatong, Prospero (Lakas)	37,698
Uy, Arturo (Reporma)	36,398
Governor	
Cabellero, Jose (Reporma)	97,901
Sarmiento, Rogelio (Lakas)	75,697

DAVAO CITY

(Namfrel 2,848 of 3,055 precincts, 89%)

District 1	
Nograles, Prospero (Lakas)	84,190
Avisado, Wendell (PDP)	42,894
District 2	
Garcia, Vicente (NPC)	24,291
Alterado, Sinforiano (PMP)	21,412
Nograles, Gerardo (Kampi)	18,967
Aportadera, Abellardo (Reporma)	12,156
Orcullo, Nenita (PDP)	14,557
Bian, Joji (Lakas-Aksyon)	9,953
Marcellones, Magdaleno Jr. (Ind.)	325
District 3	
Lopez, Ruy Elias (NPC)	46,514
Rodriguez, Sonja (Ind.)	13,678
Dolor, Allan (LDP)	12,124
Lopez, Jose (Ind.)	5,937

DAVAO DEL SUR

(Namfrel: 1,818 of 2.696 precincts)

District 1	
Cagas, Douglas (NPC)	67,733
Villaber, Pablo (Ind.)	2,522
District 3	
Bautista, Claude (NPC)	5,757
Sarmiento, Isidro (Lakas-NUCD)	1,248
Governor	
Llanos, Reynerio (NPC)	63,257
Sunga, Antonio (Lakas-NUCD)	44,946

DAVAO DEL NORTE

(Namfrel: As of 8 a.m.)

District 1	
Lemos, Meliton (Reporma)	14,642
Olano, Arel (Lakas)	15,944
Sator, Baltazar (PDSP)	14,620
Governor:	
Del Rosario, Rodolfo (Lakas)	33,291
Sebastian, Roberto (Reporma)	22,433

DAVAO ORIENTAL

(Comelec: As of 1 p.m.)

District 1	
Ching, Rolando (Lakas-NUCD)	11,918
Dayanghirang, Corazon (Reporma)	2,803
Malanyaon, Corazon (NPC)	14,721
Sango, Napoleon (PDP-Laban)	795
District 2	
Almario, Joel Mayo (Lakas-NUCD)	4,982
Yu, Justina (NPC)	3,358
Governor	
Palma Gil, Ma. Elena (Lakas)	32,762
Rabat, Benito (PMP)	15,770
Rollo, Capistrano (Reporma)	2,664

MISAMIS ORIENTAL

(Comelec: 19 of 24 towns)

District 1	
Moreno, Oscar (Lakas-NUCD)	24,416
Ursal, Allan (LDP)	10,880
District 2	
Baculio, Augusto (LDP)	25,815
Chaves, Victorico (Lakas-NUCD)	12,830
Governor:	
Calingin, Antonio (LDP)	45,801
Lagbas, Danilo (Lakas-NUCD)	35,332

NORTH COTABATO

(Namfrel: 18 towns)

District 1	
Diaz, Rosario (Lakas-NUCD)	12,288
Talino-Santos, Emmylou (Ind.)	38,544
District 2	
Ipong, Gregorio (NPC)	44,562
Andolana, Gregorio (Lakas-NUCD)	15,714
Baynosa, Freddie (Lihok Cotabato)	13,342

SURIGAO DEL NORTE

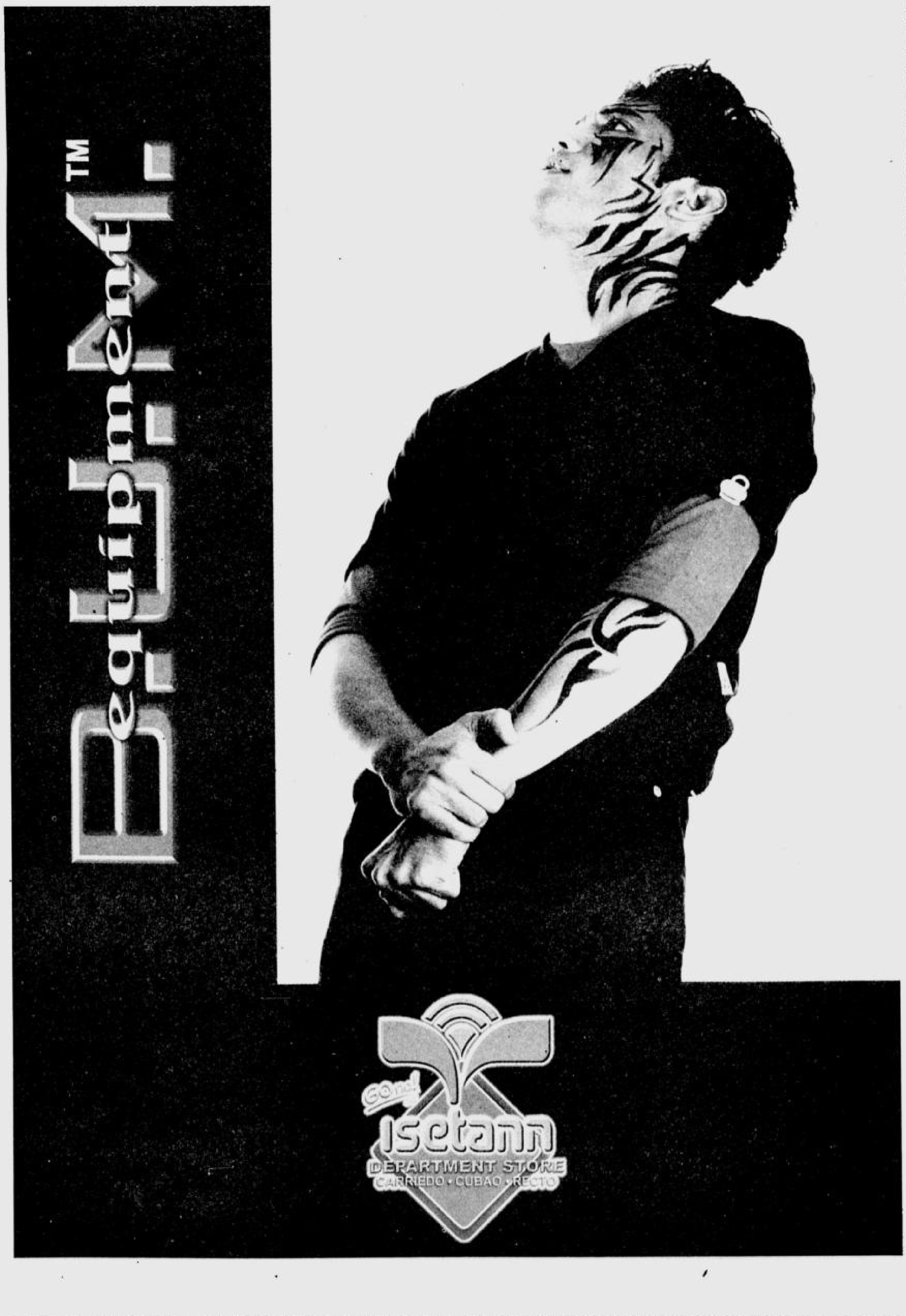
(Namfrel: As of 9 a.m. May 16)

District 2	
Barbers, Robert Ace (Lakas-NUCD)	13,638
Matugas, Francisco (LDP)	10,117
Governor	
Barbers, Robert Lyndon (Lakas)	13,042
Matugas, Ernesto (LDP)	12,177

ZAMBOANGA CITY

(Namfrel: 922 precincts)

Lone District	
Lobregat, Celso (LDP)	50,425
Arañez, Efren (Lakas-NUCD)	16,362
Climaco, Luis (PDP Laban)	18,432
Mayor	
Lobregat, Ma. Clara (LDP)	53,006
Agan, Vitaliano (Lakas-NUCD)	27,827
Wee, Lepeng (PDP Laban)	17,964



Comelec proclaims winning candidates

DESPITE electoral protests filed by losing candidates, more local races have been decided by the Commission on Elections as winning congressmen, governors, mayors and other local officials have been proclaimed since Tuesday.

Ferdinand Hernaez, the doctor-son of the slain mayor of Sta. Lucia, Ilocos Sur, won over Vice Mayor Romulo Gracia in an unexpected peaceful election in the town.

Reelectionist Mayor Teodoro Hernaez and his three police escorts were killed by communist rebels on April 18 while campaigning in a village in Sta. Lucia.

Other proclaimed winners were Lorenzo Bragado of San Emilio, Mario Tugade of Caoayan, Deocaesar Suero of Cabugao, Nathaniel Escobar of Burgos, Diokno Galang of Lidlidda, Elpidio Bistoyong of Suyo and Gilbert Ciriaco of Gregorio del Pilar (formerly Concepcion).

Former Rep. Grace Singson reclaimed her seat as mayor of Candon City. Outgoing Vice Mayor Jose Tabanda III reclaimed his seat as San Vicente mayor by exchanging position with his wife Nancy.

Pampanga

The same legislators will represent Pampanga in Congress. Reelectionist Representatives Francis Nepomuceno (first district), Zenaida Cruz-Ducut (second district), Oscar Rodriguez (third district) and Juan Pablo Bondoc (fourth district) scored wide margins against their respective opponents.

In Bataan, the Comelec proclaimed reelectionist Gov. Leonardo Roman and Vice Gov. Rogelio Roque.

In Isabela, the proclaimed mayors were Napoleon Dy (Alicia) and Francisco Ramirez III (Naguilian).

Also proclaimed were outgoing Vice Gov. Edwin Uy as congressman of Isabela's second district.

Pangasinan

In Pangasinan, proclaimed mayors were Jose Ferdinand Calimlim Jr. (Mapandan), Roy Macanlalay (Calasiao), Alicia Pulido (Anda), Ramon Guico (Binalonan), Jesus Celeste (Bolinao), Tito Zarzaba (Mangaldan), Rolando Columbres (San Jacinto), Carlito Zaplan (Sta. Barbara), Julian Resuello (San Carlos City), Amadeo Perez (Urdaneta City), Luis Agbayani (Sual), Antonio Villar (Sto. Tomas), Rogelio Soriano (Urbiztondo), Pedrito Garcia (Manaoag), Raul de Guzman (Basista), Jose Peralta Jr. (Balungao) and Ernesto Acaian (Labrador).

Cotabato

Even before the Comelec could come up with its official and final tally in the mayoral race in Cotabato City, incumbent Mayor Rodel Mañara (Reporma) conceded defeat to former mayor Muslimin Sema (Lakas-NUCD).

Based on Namfrel's final tally, Sema got 18,930 votes; Mañara, 9,689; and former mayor Ludovico Badoy (Kampi), 5,347.

In Digos City, Lakas mayoral candidate Romeo Sunga failed to stop the proclamation of his rival, incumbent Mayor Arsenio Latasa.

Sunga's lawyer, Jerameel Libre, on Wednesday asked the city election office to suspend the proclamation because the Comelec had disqualified him for seeking a fourth term of office. ***Reports from Leoncio Balbin Jr., Frank Cimatu, Villamor Visaya Jr., Cristina Arzadon and Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Tonette Orejas, Carmela Reyes and Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and Charlie Señase, Edwin Fernandez and Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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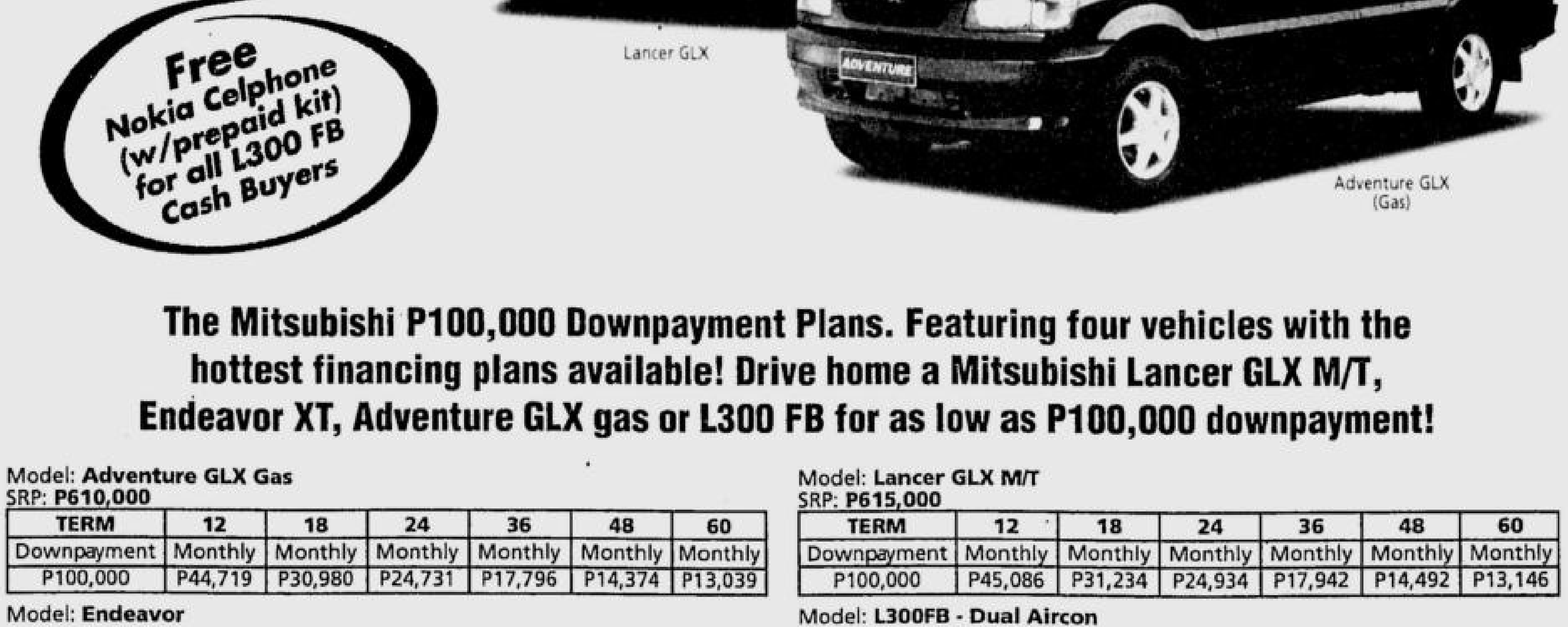

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Downpayment	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
P100,000	P45,086	P31,234	P24,934	P17,942	P14,492	P13,146

Model: **Endeavor**
SRP: **P705,000**

TERM	12	24	36	48	48	60
Downpayment	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
P100,000	P51,684	P35,805	P28,583	P20,567	P16,613	P15,069

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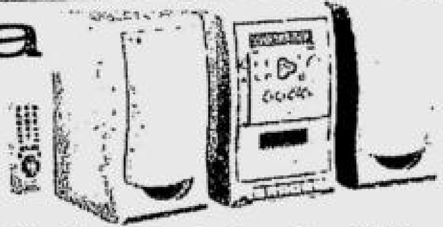

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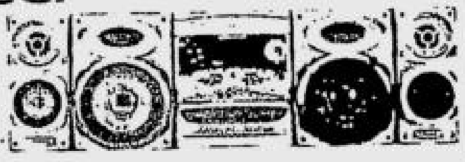

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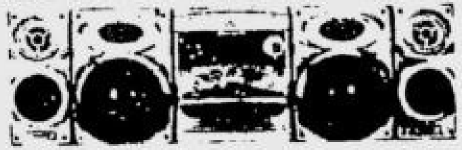

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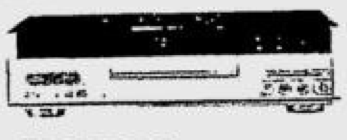

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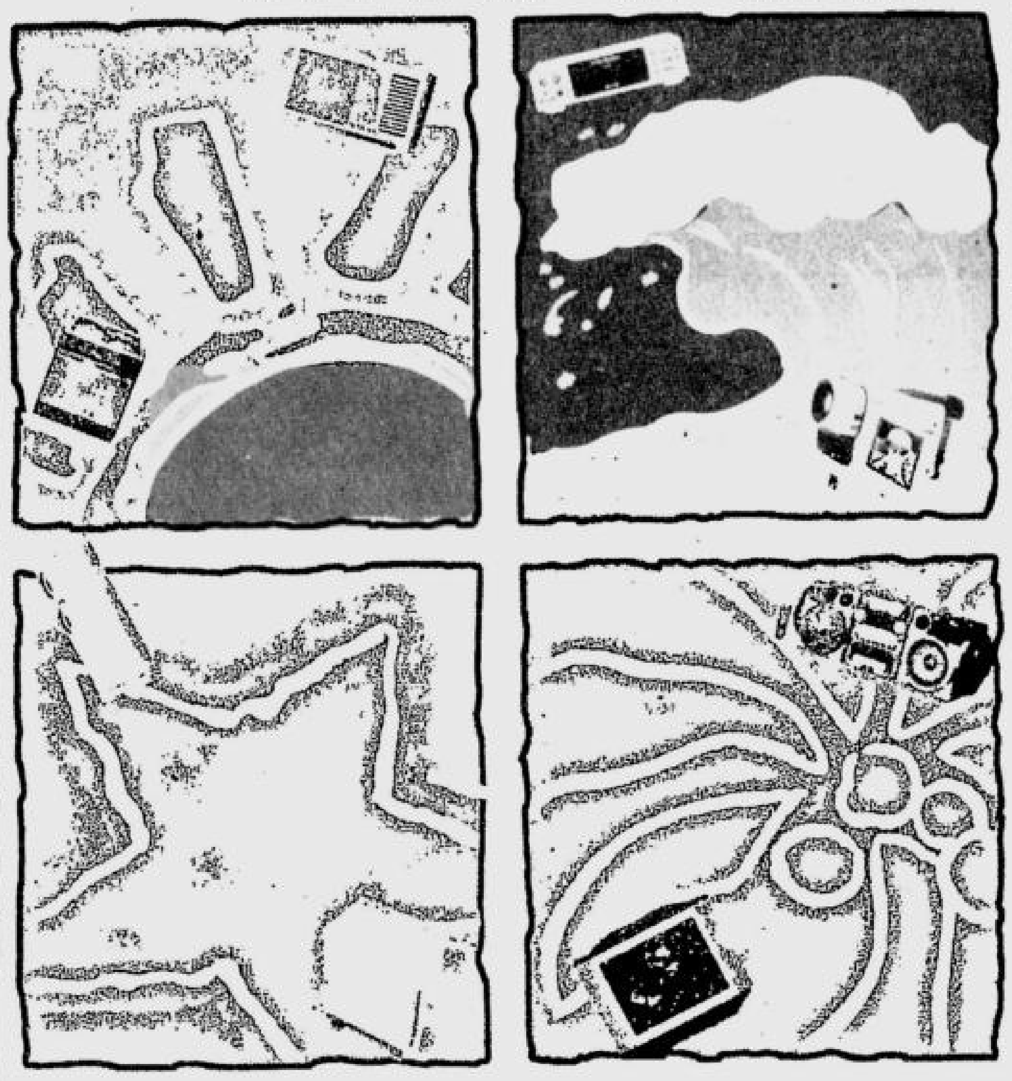

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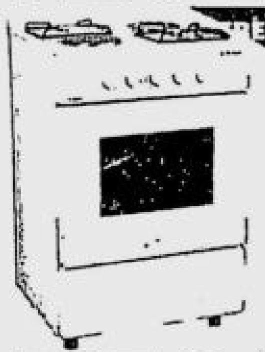

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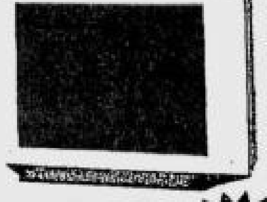

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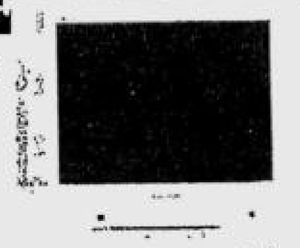

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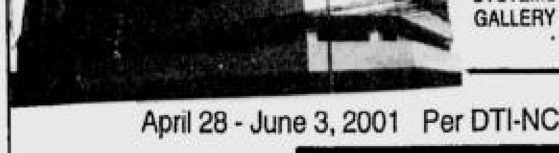

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Pols never lose, they get cheated

(From page A1)

opposition candidates Orlando Mercado and Miriam Defensor-Santiago are coping with probable defeat in the race for 13 Senate seats.

Mercado, who places 18th in the latest Namfrel unofficial quick count, is pragmatic and relaxed, while Santiago, who hovers around the 15th slot, is applying her war paint.

"You either win or lose. We don't have to blame others. There'll be time to assess our mistakes," Mercado said in a phone interview yesterday.

He said he was not about to cry out that he was a victim of foul play like some other losing candidates.

"*Hay naku*, I'm one candidate who won't complain that I was cheated in case I lose. I don't want to sound like I'm sour-graping," Mercado told the INQUIRER.

The former defense chief and senator joked that as far as candidates in any election are concerned, there are "only two kinds—the one who wins and one who is cheated."

Guess which one Santiago thinks she is.

The reelectionist senator, who has not had a history of accepting defeat gracefully, yesterday insisted that she was being cheated—the same way she explained her defeats in the presidential elections of 1992 and 1998.

For his part, while not conceding defeat, Mercado said he was prepared to accept the results, whatever those may be, "and move forward."

"I'm not filing any complaint. I'm not blaming anyone; I'm not creating a fuss. As far as I'm concerned, I take the decision of the electorate and all its faults. Yes, the electoral system is flawed but that's the way it goes."

Not according to Santiago.

"The government is thwarting the people's will," she said in a statement. "They refuse to accept the people's choice. They have a bad habit of imposing their will on the people (as) they did in Edsa II."

Sabbatical

Should he lose, Mercado said, he would take it as a sign that "maybe I need a sabbatical leave from the government."

"Maybe I'll write my book, go back to teaching, back to broadcast media. You don't have to brood," he added.

Santiago obviously had no plans of brooding; she was too busy attacking the government.

She claimed that the reason for her poor showing so far was her supposedly being a target of the Macapagal administration's alleged "dagdag-bawas" operations.

In her statement, Santiago charged the government embarked on the alleged scheme against her after previous surveys showed her winning.

She refused to accept defeat, citing endorsements she said she had received from "three giant religious groups and the Marcos loyalists."

She did not name which three religious groups had endorsed her. The Iglesia ni Cristo endorsed five opposition candidates, including Santiago, and eight administration candidates.

Santiago cited the opposition's allegations that former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Lisandro Abadia, Interior Undersecretary Wenceslao Andanar and presidential adviser Jose Dureza were conducting "dagdag-bawas" operations in Cagayan de Oro City, Marawi City and Jolo to boost the chances of the administration candidates.

She also claimed that former Philippine National Police Director General Roberto Lastimoso and other retired generals were in Iloilo, her home province, for the same reason. *With a report from Shirley Hope Sebastian*

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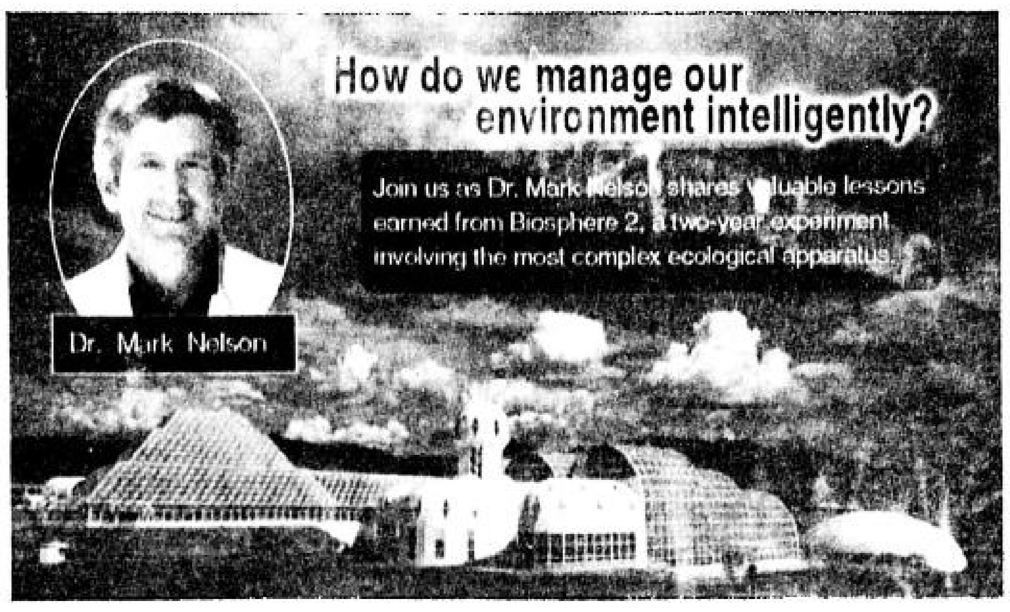
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Erap lawyers . . .

(From page A1)

to heed "public opinion" in the May 14 elections, claiming that the ongoing unofficial Namfrel count shows an emerging victory for candidates who stood by Estrada in his last days of office, over those who did not.

Lawyers Jose Flaminiano and Rene Saguisag filed a manifestation saying house arrest for Estrada would be "in the highest national interest."

"Public opinion . . . cannot be ignored," they said, even though administration senatorial candidates in the winning circle continue to outnumber their opposition rivals.

In an unusual hearing yesterday, the Estrada lawyers also argued for the reinstatement of a graft charge earlier withdrawn by government prosecutors.

Saguisag later told reporters the Estrada maneuver was part of a bigger plan "to lay the basis for a Supreme Court challenge."

Another Estrada lawyer, Pacifico Agabin, said the defense would eventually ask the Supreme Court to throw out the charges on grounds of lack of evidence.

A Sandiganbayan judge scolded the government prosecutors for swamping the court with too many criminal charges against Estrada, only to withdraw most of them.

"The prosecution created all these problems," Judge Narciso Nario thundered in the lower court.

"Had you filed only a single case, then we would not have all these problems."

Saguisag asked the court to cite the prosecution team for "misconduct." They did not have a case for plunder, but "blunder," he added.

But the judge was also incredulous about the defense team's maneuver.

"You do not want the case against your client withdrawn?" he asked.

"Yes, your honor," Agabin said.

The state filed eight charges against Estrada last month related to corruption. It later sought permission to withdrew five of the charges, saying the prosecution team wanted to concentrate on the charges of plunder, perjury and illegal use of an alias.

The anti-graft court granted a motion to withdraw one of the graft cases, but Estrada has since filed a countermotion calling for the reinstatement of the case.

Clear message?

The Sandiganbayan's 4th Division is expected to issue soon a resolution on the petition for house arrest, which was filed by the Estradas the same day that they were arrested.

In their manifestation yesterday, the Estrada lawyers sought to draw the court's attention to news reports quoting a Catholic Church leader, Iglesia ni Cristo representatives and a few government officials who favor house arrest for the disgraced leader.

They said an alleged "campaign" to discredit Estrada "has been politics- and media-driven from the start."

They contended that the "silent majority . . . sent a clear message" by voting against some prominent anti-Estrada candidates, even popular ones like gubernatorial candidates Nora Aunor and Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. Both former movie stars supported the People Power II uprising that ousted Estrada.

Examples

The lawyers said that former first lady "Dr. Loi Estrada has confounded the experts by her strong showing."

They cited other examples: "Estrada (impeachment trial) lawyer Raul Daza won as governor of his province while public prosecutor Pablo Sanidad lost in Baguio; last-minute defectors (from the Estrada camp) Orlando Mercado and Alfredo Lim are losing . . .

"The brother of (Interior) Secretary Jose Lina Jr., a strong anti-Erap critic, is getting a beating in Laguna while a son of Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., has also lost."

And, they added, "supposed destabilizers" like Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidates Panfilo Lacson, Gringo Honasan, Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Juan Ponce Enrile are "within striking distance" of their target of making it into the "Magic 13" circle.

"Edgardo Angara appears to be a shoe-in, along with Noli de Castro, long identified as pro-Erap," the lawyers said, although De Castro, who ran as an independent, distanced himself from the opposition coalition from the very start of his campaign.

Call for reconciliation

They also argued that the "Catholic Church is for house arrest," referring to an Associated Press interview with Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, head of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

"It was reported earlier that this was the position also of the Iglesia ni Cristo and such prominent figures as Speaker Feliciano Belmonte and Secretary Michael Defensor, among others," the lawyers added.

In a press briefing yesterday, Quevedo made another call, this time for opposition candidates and supporters to accept the hand of reconciliation extended by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Quevedo said the Puwersa ng Masa-LDP coalition and pro-administration civil society groups should work together to bring an end to the rift between the country's rich and poor.

"Reconciliation has always been the call of the Church. (With the elections now over), the supporters of Erap and civil society must reconcile to help end the class war," Quevedo said.

He made it clear, however, that true reconciliation cannot be accomplished without justice being served, hinting that the prosecution of the former President should be pursued.

"Reconciliation does not only mean a shaking of the hands. There must be justice," Quevedo said. *With reports from Norman Bordadora; AFP*

JV wins big; Tessie O. daughter out

(From page A1)

Gonzalez ranked third with 7,332 votes.

Estella refused to accept the Namfrel-based poll results, saying these could not be relied on because of alleged election fraud even at the precinct level.

"What the Namfrel counted was the result of their (the Ejercito group's) maneuverings at the precincts," Estella told the INQUIRER.

He said his and Gonzalez's groups would pursue their petition that a failure of elections be declared in the municipality.

Estella's camp had earlier joined forces with other political parties to protest the supposed massive fraud.

On Tuesday night, candidates and supporters of the united groups held a prayer-rally in front of the San Juan gymnasium where the canvassing of election returns was being held.

Malabon-Navotas

But in Malabon and Navotas, Rissa Oreta, the opposition's candidate for the congressional seat, lost to the People Power Coalition's man, reelectionist Ricky Sandoval.

According to Namfrel's final unofficial tabulation of 798 clustered precincts in Malabon, Sandoval beat Oreta, a candidate of the Nationalist People's Coalition, with 39,841 votes as against her 35,062.

In his hometown of Navotas, Sandoval got 32,917, and Oreta, 28,195.

Sandoval was active in the movement that ousted Estrada. Oreta had been tagged an early favorite in Malabon, the bailiwick of her mother Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, who is a close ally of the disgraced ex-president.

The results in Malabon and Navotas will be combined as the two municipalities are considered a single congressional district.

In Malabon's mayoral race, incumbent Amado Vicencio, a staunch Estrada ally, swamped the PPC's Flerry Marcelo with 55,380 to 28,073, according to Namfrel's final unofficial results.

Vicencio's running mate Jay-Jay Yambao likewise beat Diosdado Cunanan of the PPC, 38,761 to 13,424.

In Navotas, incumbent Mayor Tobias Tiangco of the NPC scored 32,524 to Peping del Rosario's 14,320.

In Quezon City, Estrada ally and two-term senator Anna Dominique Coseteng lost to newcomer Maite Defensor in her bid for a congressional seat.

Defensor, younger sister of housing chief and former Quezon City Rep. Mike Defensor—a key player in People Power II—was more than 7,000 votes ahead of Coseteng in Namfrel's unofficial count.

As of 11 a.m. yesterday, Defensor had garnered 26,332 votes over Coseteng's 18,693. The votes came from about 65 percent of the total number of precincts in Quezon City's third district.

Coseteng was among the 11 senator-judges who voted against the opening of the second envelope containing evidence against Estrada at his impeachment trial.

That "no" vote triggered street protests that eventually forced Estrada out of Malacañang.

Actors, etc.

While voters rejected many movie actors who aspired for political positions in Metro Manila and Cavite, the governor and vice governor tandem of Manuel Lapid and Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo appeared to be overwhelmingly popular in Pampanga.

Action star Lapid repeated his landslide win in the 1995 and 1998 elections by obtaining 423,870 votes.

Arroyo, a part-time actor and eldest son of President Macapagal-Arroyo, garnered 403,841 votes. He appeared in teen movies and was virtually unknown in the province until his mother became President.

In Leyte, broadcaster Ted Failon still led in the first district congressional race in Leyte over incumbent Rep. Alfred Romualdez Jr.

Failon, an independent candidate, was ahead by about 2,000 votes in the partial tally of the Commission on Elections.

Based on election returns from Babatngon and Sta. Fe towns, Failon got 6,835 against Romualdez's 4,734. The first district covers seven towns and Tacloban City.

Failon's lead was even bigger by more than 4,000 in Namfrel's unofficial count. As of 11 a.m. yesterday, Namfrel had counted 37,741 votes for Failon and 33,509 for Romualdez.

Ilocos Norte

Reelectionist Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas has reportedly accepted his imminent defeat to ex-Rep. Roque Ablan Jr., with the latter further widening his lead in the latest Namfrel count.

At 3 p.m. yesterday, the Namfrel count showed Ablan, adopted candidate of the Marcos family, garnering 16,409 votes against Fariñas' 10,390 in 343 precincts in the first district.

But while the Marcos camp appeared to have tightened its grip on key provincial positions, its candidates in Laoag City and in the provincial board are lagging behind those identified with the Fariñases.

Reelectionist Laoag Mayor Roger Fariñas was leading Marcos-endorsed candidate Wilfred Nicolas. Fariñas had 14,575 votes against Nicolas' 11,658 in 239 of 355 precincts.

In Laguna, Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro took a commanding lead over Albert Lina, brother of Interior Secretary Jose Lina, in the gubernatorial race, according to unofficial results from the Provincial Radio Communication Office.

At 8 a.m. yesterday, the count showed Lazaro with 290,259 votes and Lina, 186,616.

Even in Victoria, Lina's hometown, Lazaro had 5,900 votes, while her opponent had 5,820, according to Namfrel figures.

Visayas

In Tacloban City, mayoral candidate Mimiette Bagulaya (LP-PPC) said she would file a complaint against incumbent Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez before the Comelec for alleged vote buying and other forms of electoral fraud.

Romualdez was ahead of Bagulaya by more than 15,000 votes based on the Namfrel count from 400 to 444 precincts in Tacloban as of noon, yesterday.

In the gubernatorial race, incumbent Gov. Remedios Petilla (PPC-Lakas) was still leading her niece, Rep. Catalina Loreto-Go (NPC-KBL), by over 37,000 votes, based on the Namfrel tally.

In Cebu City, the tight mayoral race has become a subject of betting by supporters of both sides as the lead of ex-Mayor Tomas Osmeña (Promdi-PPC) over reelectionist Mayor Alvin Garcia (Alayon) narrowed to a mere 252 votes in the C-Cimpel quick count released at 3:07 p.m. yesterday.

The C-Cimpel tally has covered 78.09 percent, or 1,566 of the city's 2,058 precincts.

In Antique, scions of its two most prominent political families were ahead of their rivals for the congressional and gubernatorial seats, based on the Comelec tally yesterday.

Incumbent Gov. Exequiel Javier (Lakas), younger brother of slain Antique Gov. Evelio Javier, was leading Rep. Jovito Plameras (NPC) by more than 9,000 votes.

Sally Zaldivar-Perez (LDP-Lakas), daughter of former Supreme Court Justice Calixto Zaldivar, was ahead by over 10,000 votes of her nearest opponent, incumbent Vice Gov. Damian Marfil (Reporma).

Javier's and Zaldivar-Perez's likely triumph would herald the end of more than 10 years of animosity between the two families that were close political allies until the murder of Evelio Javier on Feb. 11, 1986. *Reports from Christian V. Esguerra, Paul Ernest Lazaro, Agnes E. Donato, Pamela Jill Flores and Andrea T. Echaves in Manila; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Joey Gabieta, Jhunnex Napallacan, Nagiel Bañacia, Hazel Villa and Vicente Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau; Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Nora, Bong downfall elates Erap

(From page A1)

"They think it's really a vindication of their stand and a repudiation of what happened" over the past seven months, Saguisag said.

Estrada was impeached by Congress in November for alleged corruption. A popular revolt removed him from office in January and he was arrested last month. He will stand trial for plunder, a capital offense, next month.

On May 1, tens of thousands of his supporters attacked the presidential palace, provoking an iron-fisted response from Ms Macapagal who called out the Armed Forces and ordered the arrest of three opposition senatorial candidates. Two of them—Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan—are in the winning circle. Juan Ponce Enrile hovers at 14th place and there are times when his name enters the top 13, dislodging administration candidate Ralph Recto.

NBA fan

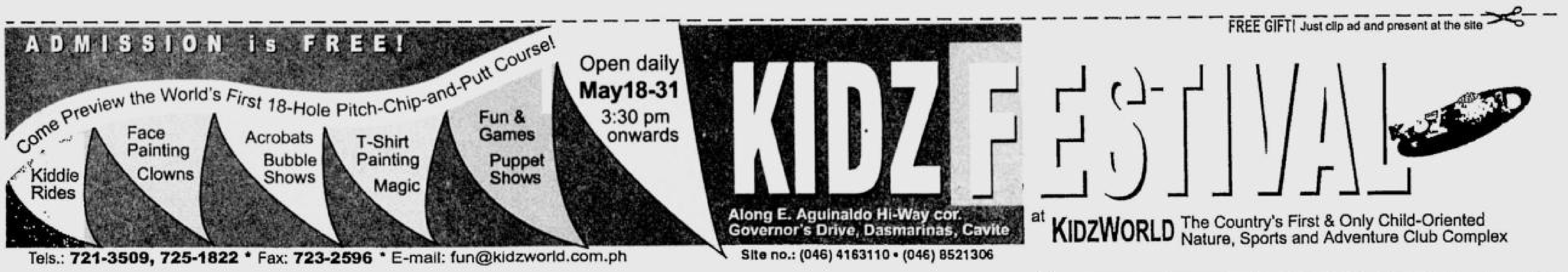
Saguisag said Estrada, who is detained with son San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada temporarily at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, was spending his time watching the National Basketball Association playoffs on cable television.

"We just saw him jogging outside," the lawyer added.

However, Saguisag said Estrada was concerned about alleged cheating by senior aides of Ms Macapagal in Mindanao. Exit polls had shown that the rebellion-torn region, home to a large Muslim minority, had voted overwhelmingly for the opposition.

People Power Coalition spokesperson Conrado Limcaoco rejected the allegations of cheating and said it was the Estrada camp that had cheated.

"All of the masters of the craft are with them," Limcaoco said. "We've been tracking some suspicious characters ... among them those associated with the previous government." *AFP*



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Spy vs spy in Mindanao

(From page A1)

is from Cagayan de Oro City while his mother is from Lanao province.

"The fears about him are highly unfounded," continued Remulla, one of the closest advisers of ousted President Estrada.

Remulla explained that Morales' presence in Mindanao is part of his visits to nongovernment organizations.

"Boy has always been going around the country even before he became secretary. He has links with several NGOs. He probably just went back to his old routine," he said.

It was Policarpio, Estrada's chief legislative liaison officer, who was sighted last week in Mindanao, according to presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

"The PPC has asked General Abadia precisely to be some kind of a check on whatever Mr. Policarpio is doing. Spy versus spy," Tiglao said.

"We're not saying he's doing something anomalous but this raises concerns with the PPC," he added.

Limcaoco went straight to the point. He said Abadia's assignment was to "neutralize" alleged attempts by the PnM to rig the results of the elections.

"Yes, the PPC has sent General Abadia to Mindanao to checkmate (Jaime) Policarpio, (Horacio) Morales and other Puwersa ng Masa operatives whom we suspect of implementing dagdag-bawas in various areas nationwide," said Limcaoco.

"It is a cat-and-mouse game in Mindanao," he said. "Wherever they will go, we will follow."

Tampering

In an impromptu press briefing at the PPC headquarters in Pasig, Limcaoco claimed his group had evidence and witnesses who could vouch that the opposition did try to tamper certificates of canvass (COC) in PnM bailiwicks.

He said one case of alleged tampering was uncovered in Eastern Samar. He said similar cases also occurred in Cagayan de Oro City.

Limcaoco said his group was also checking reports that the PnM has introduced the use of fake COCs.

He said his group would go public in response to charges from the opposition that the PPC was also engaged in electoral fraud.

"We should move beyond wholesale charges to specific cases," he said as he challenged the opposition to cite cases of fraud, where it happened, when it happened and how it happened.

He said at least six PnM candidates out to penetrate the "Magic 13" circle were the ones allegedly bankrolling the operation of Policarpio's group.

PnM charges

Remulla charged school principals of withholding their copies of election returns.

He said they had a hard time securing election returns "all over the country," particularly citing Quezon City, Malabon and Las Piñas.

The Comelec earlier decreed that one copy of the election returns would go to the Nationalist People's Coalition, being supposedly the dominant opposition party.

Remulla said that they are relying on the NPC for copies of election returns, but in some instances he said, even the NPC poll watchers do not get their copies.

"We call this operation "Agaw ER (election return) because even the dominant political parties are denied access (to the election returns) because then we can't compare (the figures) anymore (when the canvassing starts).

"This happened in Quezon City, Las Piñas and select bailiwicks of the opposition," Remulla claimed.

Naming names

In a press statement, Limcaoco said other opposition "political operators" included Ben Katindig, Virgilio Carreon, Vic Rigor alias "Black Jack," Perry Callanta; Jerome Palacios; Rolly dela Cuesta; Jonathan dela Cruz; and Danny Lim.

He said Katindig, a former assistant secretary of the DILG, and Carreon, a retired DILG regional director were known proteges of Estrada's chief political aide, Ronaldo Puno.

Dela Cruz, on the other hand, is a newspaper columnist and publicist who allegedly used to do political hatchet jobs for former President Ferdinand Marcos and former Ambassador Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

Lim is an Army colonel who led the siege of the Makati business district during the 1989 coup attempt by then Col. Gregorio Honasan.

Limcaoco said his contacts had tagged these people as the ones doing the rounds of various provinces for vote-padding and vote-shaving activities in favor of the opposition party.

Aberration

Education Secretary Raul Roco would not say outright that there had been massive fraud committed by the opposition. But the case of Ralph Recto, who's out of the winning loop, is instructive, according to him.

"It is an indication that it is not according to the surveys, so we want to ascertain why that is the situation. We have no conclusions yet but it is a matter of concern but all surveys indicate he's in top 8-9 and now he's in 15, why? We must explain that," said Roco who attended the emergency meeting called by President Macapagal with the leaders of the five parties comprising the PPC.

Concern for Recto

The meeting's main agenda seemed to have been Recto.

Roco, president of Aksyon Demokratiko, said the President and party leaders were bothered that Recto was "consistently in the top 9" of pre-election surveys and the exit polls but has dropped to No. 15 in the ongoing quick count of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections.

He described it as an aberration.

Roco said the President instructed party leaders to make sure that Recto's votes were counted.

Concern about Recto, who's been considered by the PPC since the start of the campaign as a sure winner, prompted the President to summon leaders of the ruling party Lakas, Aksyon, Promdi, Reporma and Liberal Party to a luncheon meeting in Malacañang.

Aside from Roco, those who attended were Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and presidential political adviser Jose "Joey" Rufino who are both Lakas officials, Reporma secretary general Jose Marie Geroohi, Winston Garcia for Promdi and a representative of the LP.

"We just assessed the general situation," Roco said after emerging from the meeting that lasted for an hour and 15 minutes.

"We are particularly concerned about Recto and we think our own advanced reports indicate that Recto was not in danger whatsoever. But some areas are reporting that he is not even in the 13 and we find that so weird and we're making sure that all those who got the votes will be proclaimed as winners," Roco said.

What about others?

Roco's disclosure prompted reporters to ask if the President was not equally concerned about other PPC candidates—Solita Monsod, Roberto Pagdanganan, Liway Chato—who are not in the winning circle.

Recto, member of outgoing Executive Secretary Renato De Villa's Reporma, appears to be the strongest of the five PPC candidates.

The President is concerned about all the candidates but she is concerned with upholding the will of the people and Recto's case certainly is bothersome because all indications, all surveys even the exit surveys, indicate that he was within the top 9," he said.

"The special concern is for all but Recto, in all the surveys, was in the top 9 all the time. And when all of a sudden he's 15th it's bothersome. The surveys could not have been wrong all the time. That's where we're trying to find help," Roco added.

But he also admitted that surveys could be wrong.

Asked what steps were being taken to help Recto, Roco said:

"Just monitoring, we're just sending signals to the troops that it is not over until it is over."

He said that for instance in Zamboanga del Norte where Aksyon and Reporma have fairly big memberships, local leaders had been asked to "give extra support for the Lakas people to make sure that the Zamboanga del Norte results are correct."

More deserving

Roco laughed when a radio reporter asked if special concern shouldn't be given Tañada as he was "more deserving" than Recto.

"Yes, but Tañada is getting in 12-13, he's coming in stronger. In the last two weeks (of the campaign), Tañada came in very strong," Roco said.

It was the reporters' turn to laugh when Roco maintained that the administration's "fearless forecast" was still 13-0.

PPC, PnM choppers race across Lanao skies

(From page A1)

canvassing. He said he lost in the 1995 senatorial race because of *dagdag-bawas*.

Col. Santiago Prejido, chief of the Marawi-based Army 401st Infantry Brigade, said Policarpio was in the city "to pour millions and pay canvassers to reverse election results for PnM."

The INQUIRER tried to contact Policarpio yesterday but could not reach him.

Turning point

"The turning point is Mindanao, especially Lanao del Sur, because it can swing results especially those lagging behind at between No. 12 and No. 16 during the initial poll results," said lawyer Avecina Alonto, son of former Sen. Domocao Alonto.

"The pouring of millions (of pesos) is in itself an admission that indeed Lanao del Sur can swing votes," Alonto said.

Aside from Policarpio, lawyers representing senatorial candidates Edgardo Angara and Orlando Mercado are already in Mindanao to thwart any attempt by the administration to manipulate the election results, according to Jess Abalos, PnM coordinator in Lanao del Norte.

But Abalos said it was Dureza and retired Gen. Lisandro Abadia who were engaged in *dagdag-bawas* by bribing local officials in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.

"Why is he (Dureza) here? There is a bidding war going on right now and the stakes are becoming higher," Abalos said.

Abalos said Dureza and Abadia were allegedly trying to manipulate the results of the ballot canvassing to favor the administration senatorial candidates.

He disclosed that policemen in Lanao del Norte, allegedly loyal to the administration, took 27 ballot boxes from the town of Tubod and brought them to a nearby police camp on Tuesday afternoon.

Abalos said the policemen refused to turn over the ballot boxes despite an order from the Comelec commissioner for Central Minda-nao, Mishol Sadaim.

"They want to delay the canvassing so they can manipulate the results," he said.

Denial

Dureza denied the accusations hurled against him by the opposition.

"If I will engage in *dagdag-bawas*, I will not do it here. I do it in my own turf," said Dureza, a former congressman of Davao City.

He said he had been visiting the two Lanao provinces everyday since May 14 to ensure that "the will of the people is not subverted."

Dureza said he met with Lanao del Sur candidates to ensure the smooth flow of canvassing at the provincial capitol in Marawi City.

"We assisted the local officials and defused the tense situation there. It's part of my job," he said.

Dureza said Abadia, whom he met at the Lumbia airport in Cagayan de Oro and was going back to Manila from Jolo, accompanied him in the helicopter to Marawi City last Wednesday.

"I am inviting Butch Aquino (secretary general of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino) to come and accompany me. He should see the situation in Marawi City before he starts accusing me," Dureza said.

In Cagayan de Oro City, reporters rushed to the Lumbia airport yesterday afternoon to check reports that Policarpio was giving wads of money to local election officials from Marawi and Iligan cities.

Policarpio had left the airport restaurant when the reporters arrived. The INQUIRER tried to reach Policarpio for comments but failed.

The latest results released by the Department of Interior and Local Government's quick count in Mindanao showed that the PnM's lead in the senatorial race went down from nine to eight.

PPC's Francisco Pangilinan moved into the 'Magic 13, dislodging PnM's Orlando Mercado.

With reports from Jowel F. Canuday and Violeta M. Gloria, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Congressman Punzalan 'died a happy man,' says son

(From page A1)

gunmen shot dead the elder Punzalan during a campaign rally at the public plaza in Tiaong, Quezon.

The New People's Army claimed responsibility for the killing, saying the congressman was allegedly coddling drug traffickers.

"He beat death's deadline," the young Punzalan said, adding the NBI report was "truth setting him free."

The lawmaker's sister, Tess Punzalan-Ward, railed at the media, particularly the INQUIRER, for giving "unfair" publicity to the charges of a confessed member of a drug syndicate who implicated the elder Punzalan. Two priests vouched for the integrity of the whistle-blower.

In a talk with reporters, Ward noted the INQUIRER ran the story as its banner in its April 2 issue. When the NBI cleared her brother of the charges, the story was placed only on the ear of the front page, she said.

The INQUIRER banner story on April 2 contained the congressman's side of the controversy. On its April 3 issue, the INQUIRER extensively ran Punzalan's comments also on the front page.

According to Ward, her brother told her that he was "ready to die" once he had cleared his name.

During the necrological rites, House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte and other officials praised Punzalan as "a distinguished statesman who left a legacy of dedication and commitment to public service."

Former Speaker Manuel Villar hailed Punzalan as "a master of the intricacies of foreign trade" when he served as chair of the House committee on trade and industry.

Punzalan's body will be transferred to the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City. Burial is scheduled on Sunday at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

The young Punzalan said his father "remained a true statesman—never giving in to anger nor to what must have been an almost irresistible temptation to employ his influence to crush his accusers and political rivals."

The elder Punzalan, 56, was on his third and final term as representative of Quezon's second congressional district.

His widow, Lynette, is running for the same seat and appears headed for a landslide.

The late congressman's father, Marcial Punzalan, was mayor of Tiaong when he was assassinated in 1984.

BACK where he belongs. The remains of Rep. Marcial Punzalan lie in state at the House of Representatives where he was accorded honors by his colleagues.

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Southwoods golfest stakes ₱1.8M

MERCHANDISE prizes totaling P1.8 million plus a brand-new Mitsubishi Lancer GLS automatic are up for grabs in the 2001 Manila Southwoods Invitational tournament starting today at the two championship courses of the multi-awarded club.

A bounty of top-of-the-line appliances are at stake in the various handicap divisions and the raffle of the 36-hole event serving as one of the major events in the Southwoods calendar.

Mitsubishi Motors, through Mel Dizon, and Diamond Motors headed by George Blaylock are jointly putting up the car which, if not won as the hole-in-one prize on the course, will be raffled off during the awards ceremonies tomorrow evening.

According to Southwoods sports and games chair Freddie Mendoza, a full-packed roster of 72 member-guest teams will be teeing off in each course, shotgun style today and tomorrow.

The other major backers are Asian Terminal Inc., San Miguel; PLDT, Trilux, Asia Phil. Manufacturing, Davies Paints, Excell Contractors and Developers, Corp., CAP General Insurance Corp.; Golf Force, Manila Southwoods Manor; Emerald Lighting fixtures, Ericsson, Recio+Casas, Federal Management, Mutual reliance, Piedra/Fred de Guzman, Smart, Gilbert Tumangan, among others.

Bob Sobrepeña, chair of the board of Southwoods, will be teaming up with councilor Bong Mandapat, architect Ruben Payumo will have Dr. Carlo Santos-Ocampo as partner while Peng Perez de Tagle plays with Bong Vilchez.

Lee ready for Tiger

HEIDELBERG, Germany— European number one Lee Westwood, who struggled at The Belfry last week, says he is already in far better shape to take on world number one Tiger Woods. The two men start the Tournament Players' Championship of Europe on Thursday, just days after Westwood finished 16 strokes behind Benson and Hedges International Open winner Henrik Stenson. *Reuters*

Philam prevails

PHILAM Homes humbled White Plains and Corinthian in the Alaxan Intervillage golf as it topped the north sector qualifier with 292 points at Valley recently.

The Philam Homes golfers rallied mightily behind the 38s of Waling Kintanar and Nicolo Kintanar, the 37s of Richie Lazaro and Junie Fontanilla, the 36s of Amadeo Ungson and Noli Flores and the 35s of Dedo Sioco and Rodolfo Manuel to clinch top spot in the grand finals of the series sponsored by Alaxan.

La'O ends first round jinx

BY JONG ARCANO

IF shooting 11 under par for 49 holes wouldn't get Cookie La'O anything in the Philippine amateur championship, then he might as well start thinking about some truth in sorcery.

The first round jinx was finally broken and Heartbreak Kid of the RP Amateurs suddenly became the dreaded top seed that he's supposed to be as La'O swamped first-timer Marvin Dumandan, 7&5, yesterday in the opening match play battles.

La'O, who had always been booted out the past four years in his first match, plucked the wits out of his Davao-based foe with a par-birdie-eagle start and two more birdies on the ninth and the 11th had Dumandan packing his bags early.

La'O had posted an 11-under card at the Alabang Country Club course the past three days, counting the two 69s he scored to top the stroke play qualifying for the second straight time.

He will face Angelo Que, the defending champion, in the quarterfinals today.

Que outclassed Cebunno rival Carl Almario, 6&5.

Also winning their matches were Jerome Delariarte, Iggy Clavecilla, Juvic Pagunsan, Abe Rosal, Solomon Gines and Joel Opaco.

PharmaQuick bounces back

BY DENNIS U. EROA

PHARMAQUICK routed Ateneo-Pioneer, 81-54, to strengthen its hold of the top spot in Group B of the quarterfinal round in the PBL Chairman's Cup yesterday at the Makati Coliseum.

Jun Jabar rediscovered his shooting touch, while Jay Lapinid, Leo Avenido and Bruce Dacia erupted all game long as the Pharmacists bounced back from a shocking 70-64 loss at the hands of Hapee Toothpaste last Tuesday.

The win gave PharmaQuick a pacesetting 6-4 win-loss card in Group B, while handing Ateneo-Pioneer its seventh loss in nine outings.

The top finisher in Group B after the one-round robin quarterfinals will challenge the No. 4 team in Group B for the fourth and final semifinals slot.

In another Group B match, Hapee Toothpaste bucked an impressive show by rebounding marvel Francis Zamora to down Montaña, 64-59. Hapee improved its record to 5-5.

"We didn't do something special. We run our usual plays," said assistant coach Bay Cristobal, who called the shots in place of Bernie Fabiosa, who is in sick bay.

Futsal gains ground in RP

FUTSAL, an innovative football version that has taken Europe by storm, is now gaining a foothold in the country through Nike Philippines.

The five-a-side soccer game, which originated from the word futbol de sala (indoor soccer), was invented by Juan Carlos Ceriani in Monteviedo, Uruguay, in 1930 and was incorporated by the world football association (Fifa) in 1988.

With the Filipinos' penchant for fast-paced and high-scoring games, Nike hopes that Futsal will eventually become a popular sport in the country.

"I believe that Futsal, being skill-focused and easy-to-learn, will catch the Filipinos' fancy. Like basketball, it can be played on and off rainy seasons, indoors or outdoors," said Rely San Agustin, Nike Phils. sports marketing coordinator.

Believing in grassroots development, Fustal clinics will be held twice a year to brief coaches and referees about the rudiments of the game. Other programs will include open men's and women's competitions, collegiate and high school opens, not to mention competitions in the elementary level.

The importance of Futsal as a vital tool in training future soccer players can be gleaned from the fact that that members of the Brazil national team undergo Futsal training before they go into actual soccer competitions.

The first ever Nike Futsal Coaches Clinic in February was held at Strikezone on Roxas Boulevard. The clinic was facilitated by Futsal committee chair Joaquin Preysler. A referees' clinic was held in March at the La Salle Greenhills Gym.

Lean and mean team

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IT'S time to send a compact but competitive delegation to the Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur this September because that's what the public wants. No kidding.

"The public is now sensitive to our performance abroad," said Philippine Sports Commission chair Carlos Tuason during last Tuesday's weekly PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn. "The people are now conscious about the gold medals we would be bringing back home since government money—the people's money—is involved. They might not look too kindly if we win few medals despite sending a big contingent than if we fielded a small delegation."

Tuason said this year's SEAG delegation, numbering around 400 athletes and officials, is expected to perform better, perhaps better than the fifth-place finish of the Philippine team that competed in the 1999 Brunei SEA Games.

"After all, the PSC is keeping the athletes' morale high," Tuason explained. He added that the government agency has already increased the monthly allowances of the athletes and coaches in the national pool by P1,000, apart from raising their meal subsidies and opening letters of credit for the purchase of the equipment needed by the various National Sports Associations in preparation for the Kuala Lumpur games.

Two years ago in Brunei, the Philippines wound up a dismal fifth in the biennial sportsfest behind overall winner Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. That fifth-place finish was a big letdown, an unforgettable experience for Filipino sports officials who were embarrassed that tiny Singapore with only about four million people beat the Philippines with a population of close to 75 million.

"We won't let this embarrassment happen again," said Tuason.

Aside from favoring a lean but mean team to the Malaysian games, the PSC chief is also batting for the inclusion of Filipino-Australians and Fil-American athletes to boost the country's medal chances in the Kuala Lumpur meet. "They are better-trained using modern equipment and, with their parents monitoring their training, they will certainly give us the edge against our opponents in the SEA Games."

***

SMB, BUT OF COURSE. With their championship experience and the forbidding presence of their deadly duo—Danny Seigle and Danny Ildefonso—I am picking the San Miguel Beermen to beat Barangay Ginebra tonight in Game 6 of the PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum. Following last Wednesday's 98-95 pulse-pounding win in overtime, which gave SMB a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven title series, it is not farfetched to expect another victory for coach Jong Uichico tonight.

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Chinese from Singapore break SEAG mark

By June Navarro

TWO Chinese nationals representing Singapore rewrote the Southeast Asian Games record books in women's shot put yesterday in the 2001 Milo National Invitational Track and Field Open at the Rizal Memorial Track Oval.

Du Xian Hua and Zhang Guirong heaved 17.54 and 17.34 meters, respectively, shattering the SEA Games mark of 17.25 set by Jutaporn Krasaeyan of Thailand in Jakarta 1997.

Loh Lin Kok, president of the Singapore Amateur Athletic Association, explained Hua and Guirong are permanent residents of Singapore but have yet to acquire citizenship status.

"They (Hua and Guirong) have been training for our national athletics team for the past two years," said Kok, who confirmed Singapore's drive to lure Chinese mainlanders into their country and allow them to play for the national team.

Kok also said Wang Dan and Dong Lan Sin, who will compete in the hammer and javelin throw, respectively, are Chinese nationals.

Mitchel Martinez of Bago City finished third in the event with a 13-meter heave, a vast improvement from the 12.86 he registered in the Thailand Open last week.

Army football finalist

ARMY-SYLVIA nipped Army A, 3-2, in a duel of Fort Bonifacio-based teams to rule the Luzon Cup beach football tournament before an appreciative crowd at the Subic Freeport over the weekend.

MVP Jesus Veron and best goalkeeper Noli Severino starred for Army-Sylvia in leading three other teams into the Rexona National Beach Football Championship slated in Dumaguete later this year.

Puyat extends peace pipe to Tiny Literal

LITO Puyat, president of the Basketball Association of the Philipines, yesterday extended the peace pipe to rival BAP faction leader Quintellano Literal in a bid to unify the warring groups for next month's BAP elections.

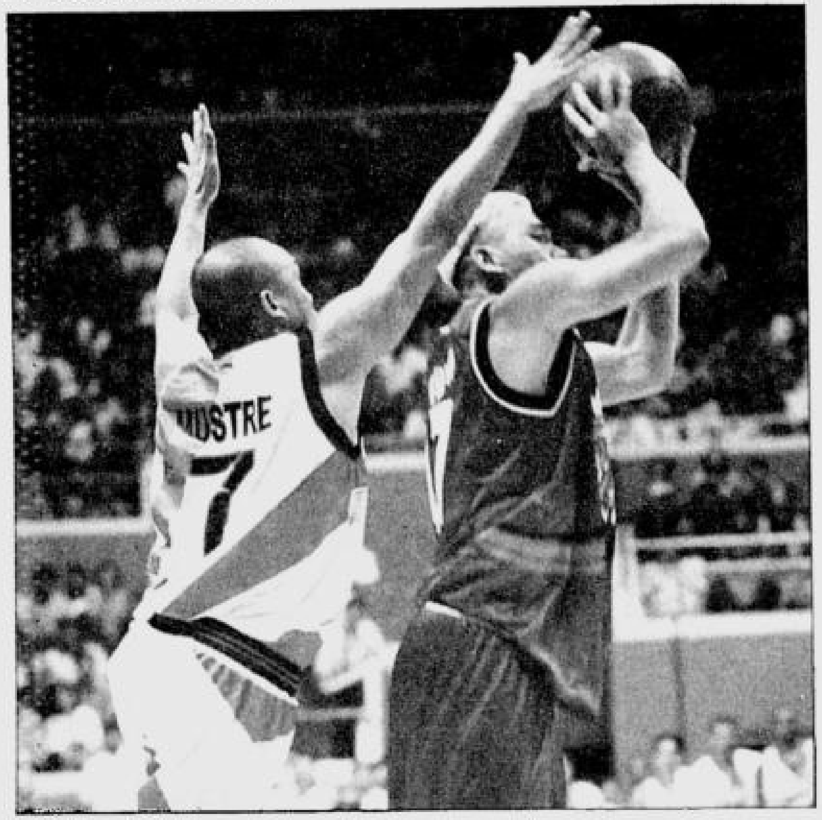
Puyat said the June 7 polls "would be final, legal and sanctioned by the Philippine Olympic Committee."

Puyat, who is on acting capacity after BAP president Godofredo Jalasco went on leave at the height of the BAP leadership controversy, also asked Literal to reconsider the threat made by the resigned BAP secretary general Graham Lim to boycott the elections.

"I have no malice toward none and there should be goodwill to all. We should all sit down—Tiny, Freddie and all those involved in the BAP—and be united in charting the BAP's progress. We should leave the BAP in good hands and forget politics," Puyat said.

The polls will be held at the Manila Bank building in Makati.

"Freddie and I were authorized to call for an election and we set it for June 7," Puyat said. "All other elections held before that were deemed illegal by the BAP by-laws and the POC order. We will stick to the rules and the BAP constitution."



ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

NOT ENOUGH

Mark Caguioa of Barangay Ginebra shoots ahead of Mike Mustre of San Miguel Beer in this bit of action during Game 5 of their PBA All-Filipino Cup. The Beermen won, 98-95, in overtime. (Story on A24).

FEU nips UST, 68-66

FAR Eastern University's Tamaraws leaned on Gerard Jones' two free throws in the last three seconds to nip the UST Goldies, 68-66, Wednesday at the Araneta Coliseum and fortify their hold on the Group A lead in the 7th Fr. Martin Cup invitational basketball tournament.

It was the fifth straight win for coach Coy Banal's Tamaraws in the 45-team cagefest sponsored by Agfa, Photo Plus, Red Bull and SMART-Piltel.

Coach Arturo Valenzona's San Sebastian Stags subdued the Mapua Cardinals, 65-57, at the Philsports Arena to tie idle Letran for second spot at 3-1.

In Junior games at the PCU gym, De La Salle Zobel stunned Ateneo A, 69-68; Uno High blasted UPHR, 76-46; Adamson toppled La Salle Greenhills, 75-68; and UST whipped San Beda B, 86-69.

Action resumes today with five senior and six junior matches at Philsports and FEU gym.

Jose Rizal's Heavy Bombers gun for their fifth Group B victory against Angelicum at 1 p.m. at Philsports.

The other senior games pit UST B against St. Benilde at 10 a.m., UST A against St. Jude at 11:30, Mapua against Letran at 2:30 p.m. and UE against San Beda A at 5.

In junior contests at the FEU gym, UST faces UE at 8 a.m., PCU meets SSC at 9:30, Xavier battles Mapua at 11, San Beda A tackles Aquinas at 12:30 p.m., Ateneo B plays PCCr at 2 and Ateneo A goes up against Uno High at 3:30.

76ers rap Raptors, 121-88

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson, the NBA's Most Valuable Player, scored 52 points, including 29 in the first half, as the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Toronto Raptors, 121-88, yesterday to take a 3-2 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinals series.

Game 6 of the best-of-seven series is Friday in Toronto (Saturday in Manila).

Vince Carter scored 16 points and Antonio Davis added 14 for the Raptors, who trail for the first time in the series.

Carter left early in the fourth quarter when he was hit in the head by 76ers center Dikembe Mutombo. Carter returned to the bench midway through the fourth, sat down and held his head. A Raptors official said the injury wasn't serious.

Aaron McKie had 19 and nine assists, and Mutombo added 14 points and nine rebounds for the Sixers.

From the moment NBA commissioner David Stern presented Iverson with the MVP trophy before the game, the night belonged to the Sixers. *AP*

'Manggahan' offers Motocross

AFTER the election fever, motocross takes centerstage with the staging of the National Superseries 2001: The Race of Guimaras and WG&A at the Guimaras Sports Complex on Sunday, May 20.

The event, which is organized by Hartebeest Entertainment Corp. in cooperation with MAD and Kids Foundation, will be held as part of the annual celebration of the Manggahan Festival

Riders from various cities and municipalities in the Visayas are expected to participate in the one-day competition also sponsored by Bench, PLDT, Smart Zed, Norkis-Yamaha, Agua Vida, Access Plus, Dreambikes Superstore and Transtainer System.

Fifteen categories, including the highly popular Pantra division, will be held during the event, also supported by the Department of Tourism Guimaras, FF Cruz and Caltex Revtex.

The event is sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association.

Dr. J praises Iverson

PHILADELPHIA — Julius Erving returned to Philadelphia to help honor Allen Iverson, the NBA's Most Valuable Player.

NBA commissioner David Stern on Wednesday presented Iverson with the MVP trophy before Game 5 of the Eastern Conference semifinals against the Toronto Raptors.

"I look at Allen having won this as a proud moment for the franchise and a grand moment for him considering all the things he had to endure," said Erving, who had been critical of Iverson in the past. "This has been a dream season for him." *AP*

All Girls Jr tennis

AFTER the successful hosting of the 1st AD-IN All Girls Juniors Tennis Tournament at the Metroclub tennis courts, AD-IN will hold its 2nd All Girls Juniors Tennis Tournament on May 23-26, 2001 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The tournament is sanctioned by Philta. Call 5256434 or 6344207 for more details.

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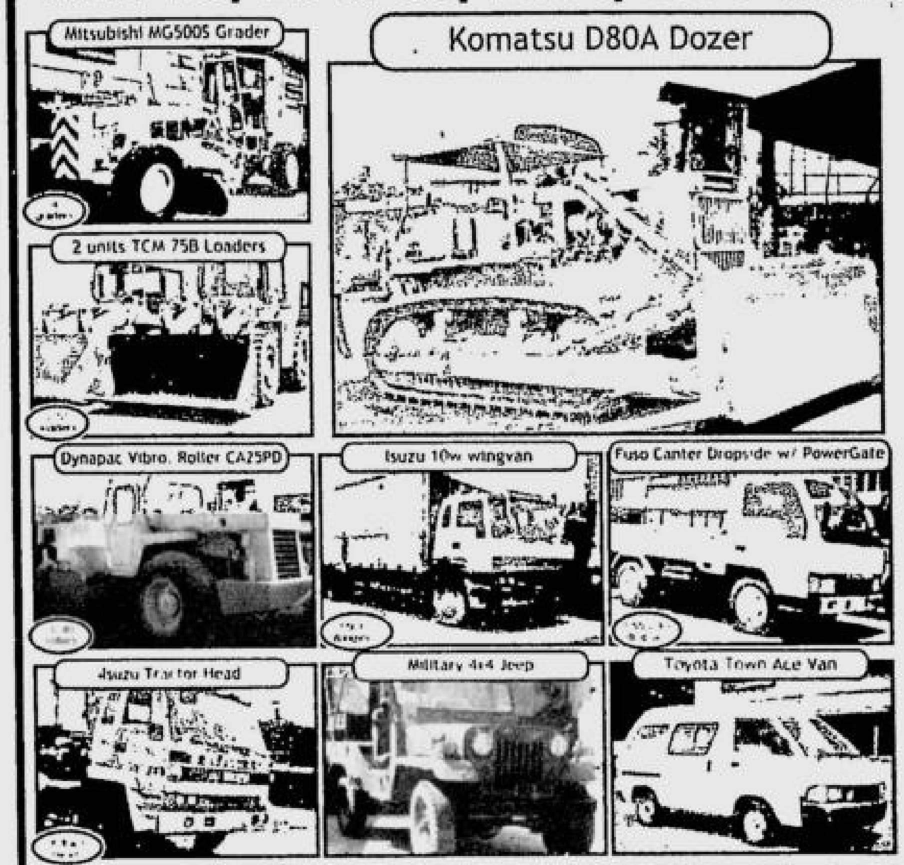

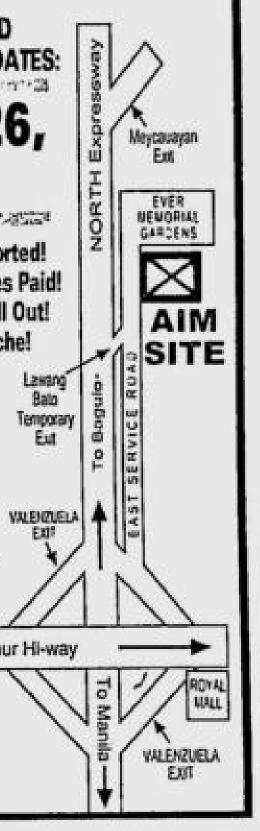

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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▣ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV

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BASKETBALL: NBA Conference Semifinals – Charlotte vs Milwaukee Game 6 at 8 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on Star Sports, Sacramento vs LA Lakers at 5 p.m. (delayed—May 14) on IBC 13

NBA Inside Stuff at 8:30 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: Inside the PGA Tour at 12 noon on Star Sports

PGA Mastercard Colonial, First Round at 11:30 p.m. (delayed) on Star Sports

National chessfest tomorrow

THE NATIONAL Age Group (Boys and Girls) Chess Championships will start at 1 p.m. tomorrow at the Kaban ng Hiyas Building of the Mandaluyong City Hall complex. According to tournament director and national master Antonio Calvo, 200 players from seven cities and 13 provinces are entered in the event organized by the Philippine Chess Society.

SMB guns for 16th crown vs Ginebra

GAME TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
7:15 p.m.—SMB vs Ginebra
(Game 6)

SERIES AT A GLANCE
Game 1 – SMB 81, Ginebra 75
Game 2 – SMB 89, Ginebra 72
Game 3 – Ginebra 82, SMB 80
Game 4 - Ginebra 80, SMB 64
Game 5 - SMB 98, Ginebra 95

UICHICO

WITH San Miguel Beer just a game away from the crown, Barangay Ginebra needs all the never-say-die spirit it can summon today to forge a deciding Game 7.

The Beermen, squeezing out a 98-95 overtime win on Wednesday, go for it against the Gin Kings at 7:15 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

A win will give SMB its 16th PBA title but more important, it will prime it up for a second Grand Slam bid.

San Miguel Beer won the Grand Slam in 1989 after the legendary Crispa captured Grand Slam titles in 1976 and 1983.

The Beermen bucked a slow start Wednesday before working their way back into the game using patience as trigger.

SMB coach Jong Uichico acknowledged Ginebra's toughness under the most trying of conditions.

"We have to face this kind of adversity to be able to get what we want," said Uichico. "And Ginebra is really pushing us to the wall.

"In this series, we are the real underdogs in the sense that the crowds are cheering against us. Ginebra always gets 70 percent of the crowd every night."

The crowd, already estimated as the biggest in a decade, will again play a crucial role tonight.

But while SMB is seeking its fifth crown in the last six conferences, Uichico has a more majestic mission: Keeping his championship record intact following a 4-of-4 performance in his last four title playoffs.

Another win will put the 38-year-old Uichico in the company of Tim Cone, Baby Dalupan, Tommy Manotoc, Norman Black and Dante Silverio, all winners of five crowns or more.

"It's going to be hard for Ginebra to stop our momentum now," he said.

Ginebra's last victory came in 1997.

Getting real

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WRONG: "...the only golf lessons she had were from his father, Domingo, who forbade her daughter to do the dishes."

RIGHT: "...the only golf lessons she had were from her father, Domingo, who forbade his daughter to do the dishes."

Three men read my column yesterday before it got printed for final publication.

Valentin Dakuykoy is right. Two heads are better than one.

Not three.

Sorry *po*.

■

DO you honestly believe San Miguel Beer won Game 5?

I do.

But only in overtime.

I mean when the five-minute extension was forged, it became free-for-all from there.

As I keep telling friends, the PBA All-Filipino title showdown is a big brother-versus-little brother series—SMB being the big brother for its sheer superiority in manpower, not to mention its unassailable experience as evidenced by its cache of titles (15) won thus far.

Thus, when Barangay Ginebra, the little brother, couldn't win it in regulation on Wednesday, SMB had no choice but to win it in overtime. Otherwise, the script wouldn't have looked palatable.

Still, to the discerning, the series is not fact but more of a farce. A true lie. Meaning, the fact that they are sister teams makes for a farce the ongoing series as in blanks being fired during a war exercise. Nobody really loses. Not all the games they have played thus far were real. They all appeared real, but not really for real.

Games 1 and 2 were real. Games 3 and 4 weren't. Game 5 became real only in overtime.

If I say real, I mean real insofar as SMB's game was concerned since Ginebra always played it real since Game 1. Small brothers are always like that.

Game 5 was there for Ginebra's taking. Alas, it fell short, its best not enough against big brother who came up short of losing it.

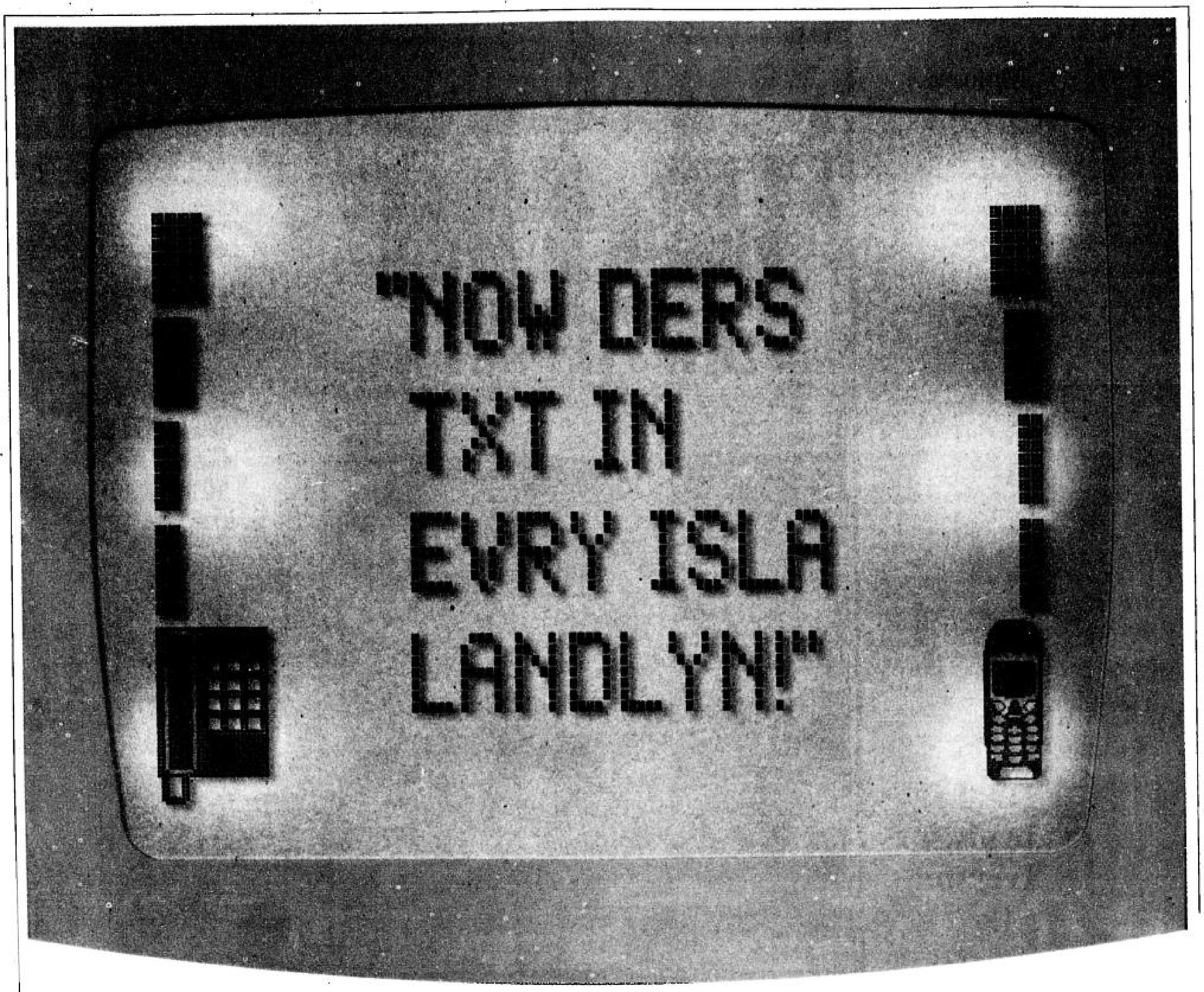
In short, it was another day in the office for SMB in Game 5. Like a government office, if you will. A little effort here, and a little effort there.

Having said those, will SMB win it tonight and finally wrap up the crown?

That aspect of farce prevailing over fact will be the key.

But if fact comes to farce, you'll be looking at Game 7. Not a bad prospect though as a Game 7 would make everybody happy.

In a strictly family affair such as the one we're having right now, nobody really gets hurt.



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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'Martilyo' suspect slain A28
'Failure of elections' A27

Another Ozone, official warns of canvass site

Parties sought closure of doors, windows, fire exits

NAMFREL/COMELEC

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As of 2 pm

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Atienza	73,153
Lim	57,801
Bagatsing	40,305
Vice Mayor	
Lacuna	98,418
Dionisio	37,848
Gernale	24,427
Congressmen	
1st District	
Nieva	13,154
Isidro	5,306
Lim	3,075
2nd District	
Lopez	8,388
Ponce	6,478
Viceo	2,023
3rd District	
Angping	18,996
Fugoso	8,427
Ducat	3,589
4th District	
Bacani	22,529
Herrera	8,008
5th District	
Hizon	31,511
Cantal	4,438
6th District	
Crespo	11,717
Ocampo	11,077
Abante	9,138

CALOOCAN
As of 6:30 pm
Mayor
Malonzo
45,093
Asistio
36,666
Congressmen
1st District
Echiverri
25,617
Malapitan
14,571

NAMFREL/A26

By CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

THE VENUE for the canvassing of election returns in Caloocan City has become a virtual fire hazard after political parties petitioned that all its doors, windows and fire exits be sealed "to maintain the integrity of the ballot."

Fearing it could turn into another Ozone Disco, where hundreds of mostly young people perished in a fire in 1996, Caloocan City administrator Mamerto Manahan yesterday warned that the Bulwagang Katipunan of the city hall is an "accident waiting to happen."

"The venue is now like Ozone Disco," Manahan said. "I fear an accident might happen anytime since the slightest stimulus could trigger a stampede."

Manahan said the main door is the only entry/exit point to the hall where 2,827 election returns are being canvassed.

Like the Ozone Disco, the main door of the Bulwagang Katipunan swings toward the inside. In a stampede, the door might be shut if people inside unwittingly try to push it outward, which was what happened in the Ozone fire, Manahan said.

"A stampede might happen anytime considering the tension inside the hall," he said.

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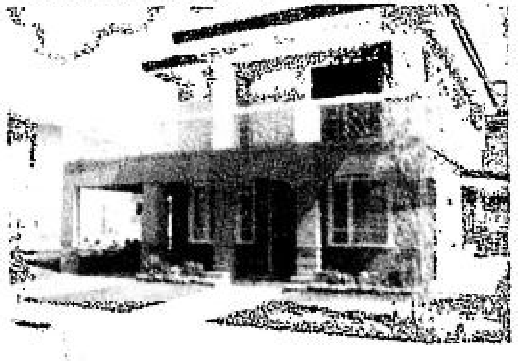
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Charges, counter-charges

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez, Jerome Aning and Ma. Lydia Alminana

LAWYERS of Quezon City mayoral candidate Rudy Fernandez yesterday said they have started gathering evidence proving that the administration candidate, former Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr., had committed massive election fraud.

In Manila, reelectionist Mayor Lito Atienza said the disqualification cases filed against him were the "desperate moves of defeated candidates."

Lawyer Rey Campanilla, lead counsel of Fernandez's group Kasanggа, also denounced officials of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) for allegedly favoring Belmonte.

Belmonte's campaign manager Tady Palma dismissed the accusation as the "ranting of a loser."

Fernandez in a telephone interview yesterday accused the Belmonte camp of sneaking out several election returns in connivance with local Comelec officials.

"He (Belmonte) may have influence with the Comelec, but definitely not with the people," Fernandez said. "We will not allow them to make a mockery of the electoral process."

Belmonte's camp countered that the former House speaker was clearly the winner.

Palma said in a separate interview: "How can they accuse us of committing fraud when we have a lead like that? His (Fernandez's) statement is typical of a loser."

Campanilla argued that the Comelec had not given their camp the fifth copy of the election results.

"Our main problem is, we cannot compare the Comelec figures with anything because they did not give us the fifth copy," he lamented.

In Manila, mayoralty candidates Alfredo Lim and Amado Bagatsing filed with the Commission on Elections disqualification cases against Atienza for unfair election practices and overspending, but Atienza's spokesman, Manila city legal officer Melchor Monsod, said the cases had "absolutely no legal leg to stand on."

Lim and Bagatsing said Atienza's May 12 "miting de avance" was aired on TV the following day for six hours with only "in-house ads or political propaganda and campaign shows."

Monsod said the campaign was in accordance with election laws and Comelec guidelines.

Namfrel . . .

(From page A25)

2nd District	
Asistio	25,617
Erice	14,577
MALABON	
As of 12 p.m.	
Mayor	
Vicencio	55,380
Marcelo	26,073
Congressman	
Sandoval	32,917
Oreta	28,195
NAVOTAS	
Mayor	
Tiangco	32,524
del Rosario	14,320
MUNTINLUPA	
As of 5:30 p.m. based on Comelec count	
Mayor	
Fresnedi	5,883
Masangkay	4,165
Congressmen	
Biazon	52,692
Bunye	51,073
MANDALUYONG	
As of 12:35 p.m.	
Mayor	
Abalos	24,558
Domingo	14,938
Vice Mayor	
Cruz	22,085
Salvador	16,093
Congressman	
Gonzales	24,923
Domingo-Buan	10,708
QUEZON CITY	
As of 11 a.m.	
Mayor	
Belmonte	223,367
Fernandez	145,349
Liban	18,733
Vice Mayor	
Bautista	246,241
Angeles	155,089
Congressmen	
District 1	
Calalay	59,962
Samson	31,470
District 2	
Mathay	75,468
Castelo	45,881
District 3	
Defensor	26,332
Coseteng	18,693
District 4	
Daza	22,975
Lagman	22,206
Mathay	19,919
PASAY CITY	
As of 4:30 p.m.	
Mayor	
Trinidad	22,005
Alcera	13,124
Santos	12,550
Congressman	
Dy	37,368
Briones	17,233
Webb	15,761
MAKATI CITY	
As of 7 p.m. based on Comelec count	
Mayor	
Binay	13,143
Manzano	9,335
Vice Mayor	
Mercado	11,097
Barbers	10,740
Congressman	
Locsin	12,876
Siguion-Reyna	4,645
Silverio	3,188
MARIKINA CITY	
As of 7:13 a.m.	
Mayor	
Fernando	64,487
Candazo	39,342
Vice Mayor	
Andres	52,417
Paulite	19,117
Banzon	18,828
Congressman	
De Guzman	40,918
Farcon	25,618
Delos Angeles	20,984
PASIG CITY	
As of 12:30 a.m.	
Mayor	
Eusebio	76,055
Raymundo	12,111

ERRATUM

Please disregard the coupon in the Henkel Fa Men print ad in the Lifestyle section of Philippine Daily Inquirer, p.7, dated May 18, 2001.

The coupon has been inadvertently placed in the ad and there is no said promo or tie-up with SM Health & Beauty at the moment.

Another Ozone . . .

(From page A25)

Though iron grills cover the windows of the Katipunan Hall, political parties insisted they be covered with wooden boards supposedly to avoid ballot snatching. Even doors were covered with plyboards.

The Katipunan Hall is on the third floor of the city hall. Adjacent to the hall is a function room which is currently used as a working area for media and police.

Manahan believed the hall could easily catch fire because of its loaded electrical circuits that power several air-conditioning units, industrial fans, television cameras and other devices.

Last Wednesday, Manahan wrote to election officer Calixtro Ramos of his "strong opposition" to the sealing of the hall's auxiliary exits.

Manahan said that according to the National Building Code, "every building or usable portion thereof shall have at least one exit ... every storey or portion thereof having an occupant load of 500 to 999 should have at least three exits."

The Katipunan Hall has a seating capacity of 600, he said.

This information prompted election officer Ramos to order the opening of the hall's auxiliary exits during yesterday's canvassing of election returns.

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Thermos Snack Pack w/ Jug Combo #7948 (Limited stocks only)
Thermos Insulated Lunch Bag #8704 w/ bottle holder & dual side zipper
Thermos Personal Jug 1.4L w/ strap #7948S
Thermos Personal Jug w/ drink spout 1.4L #7948A
Thermos Little Mermaid Insulated Soft Lunch Kit
Thermos Mickey Mouse Insulated Soft Lunch Kit
Thermos Minnie Mouse Insulated Soft Lunch Kit
Thermos Winnie the Pooh Insulated Soft Lunch Kit
Thermos Winnie the Pooh Insulated Soft Lunch Kit
Star/National Classic Food Box Before: P175 P148
Nikko Lunch Box w/ partition (4-pc.)
Dolphin/Sankyo Lunch Jar Before: P279 NOW P238 (Limited stocks only)
Permaware Sesame Street Tumbler K9-SS 10% OFF
Multi-Purpose Mini Luggage 134-88 Before: P88 NOW P58
Permaware Sesame Street Lunch Box # 89-1SS 10% OFF
Dallas Bottle 600 ml
Boston Bottle 400 ml 10% OFF
LA Bottle 460 ml
Nikko Desk Lamp WK-260 (Gray/Black/White) ONLY P218
Nikko Desk Lamp (Gray/Black/White/Green) ONLY P158
Sharp Scientific Calculator EL-531RH/B/G
Marathon KT-1000 Electronic Typewriter
Marathon KT-3030 Electronic Typewriter
Sharp Scientific Calculator EL-506R
Study Table Before: P3700 NOW P2595
Study Table L32 x W18.5 x H60 Before: P3990 NOW P1995
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SOGO HOME & OFFICE CENTER Level 3, Expansion Mall, Madison Blvd. Robinsons Galleria EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Q.C. Tel. Nos. 632-0873 & 74 / 635-4746
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'Failure of elections'

By Gerald G. Lacuarta and Agnes E. Donato

MANDALUYONG City mayoral candidate Ernesto "Bibot" Domingo Jr. yesterday asked the Commission on Elections to declare a failure of elections in the city, claiming there was massive vote-buying, disenfranchisement of voters and terrorism.

Domingo, of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, blamed the administration party Lakas-NUCD of reelectionist Mayor Benhur Abalos Jr. for the failure of elections, saying the acts of massive fraud "prevented the faithful determination of the true will of the people."

"There is an imperative necessity to declare the failure of the May 14 elections in Mandaluyong and to call for special elections in the city," said Domingo in a five-page petition filed with the Comelec's law department.

But Abalos dismissed Domingo's charges and urged his rival to "be strong enough to accept the reality."

"If you are man enough to enter politics, you should also be man enough to accept defeat," Abalos said.

Aside from alleged massive vote buying, Domingo also accused the Abalos camp of systematic harassment and terrorism.

Domingo cited the arrest and mauling of two teenage boys by members of the Office of the Mayor's Quasi-Police Organization who caught the two boys allegedly pasting anti-Abalos posters. The two were charged with "vandalism," which Domingo said does not exist in the Penal Code or in city ordinances.

Domingo also mentioned the arrest and detention on May 13 of Juan Mandaluyon, president of a senior citizen's association that supports Domingo.

Mandaluyon was taking a nap at his house about 2 p.m. when a group allegedly led by former mayor and now Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., father of the incumbent mayor, arrived and arrested the old man allegedly for vote buying.

Domingo said that on election day, some of his watchers were also arrested and detained on flimsy charges.

Domingo complained that voters, particularly those identified with the LDP, were systematically removed from the voter's list or deliberately transferred from one precinct to another to discourage them from voting.

"This has resulted in the massive disenfranchisement of the voters," he said.

Makati counting at snail's pace

By Roselle Aguilar

COUNTING continued at a snail's pace yesterday in Makati City, and poor ventilation in the counting venue was one of the causes of delay.

The local office of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) has yet to provide the figures of the official canvass following its partial release on May 15.

But in these partial results, which covered 99 precincts, former Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay is leading actor Edu Manzano in the mayoral race. Binay's running mate Ernesto Mercado has the edge over rival Robert Dean Barbers in the race for the vice mayor's post.

Newsman Teodoro Locsin is winning against former chief censor Armida Siguion-Reyna in the congressional race in Makati's 1st district, while Melinda Silverio is in third place.

Results of the congressional race in the 2nd district are not yet available.

Pedro Rosal, local chair of the board of canvassers, said the poor ventilation of the Barangay Valenzuela Sports Complex and the oppressive summer heat make it very hard for pollsters to do the counting.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, May 18, 2001
5th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 15:22-31
Gospel: Jn 15:12-17

Jesus said to his disciples, "This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this, to give one's life for one's friends; and you are my friends if you do what I command you.

I shall not call you servants any more, because servants do not know what their master is about. Instead I have called you friends, since I have made known to you everything I learned from my Father.

You did not choose me; it was I who chose you and sent you to go and *bear fruit*, fruit that will last. And everything you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.

This is my command, that you love one another."

Commentary:

To be a Christian is first of all to be fully aware that one has been chosen. Especially within the context of Asia, wherein Catholics constitute only 2.9 percent (50percent of these are in the Philippines) of almost 3.5 billion Asians, the mystery of divine election to this faith tradition must be well meditated. Why of so many peoples was I baptized and reared as a Catholic? The sense of mission of doing Christlike deeds in the midst of fellow wayfarers of other religious traditions can only spring forth from such a consciousness of one's divine choice.

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GAB chief explains

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(INCORRECT: My sincerest apologies for the wrong word I had used in identifying the talented American basketball player who had taught Ginebra's Mark Caguioa the sound basics of the game in various California sandlots. I was told the correct term should have been African-American. There was no slur intended. It was purely a silly slip. Again my apologies.)

***

Despite the revelations about the poor condition of the eventual loser, courtesy of Mr. Ronnie Nathanielz, the issue on Gerry Peñalosa's shocking first-round knockout win over a Japanese challenger lingers. In fact, the head of the Games and Amusements Board, Dominador Cepeda, has sent in this clarificatory letter. Let's give Mr. Cepeda the floor:

"I read your column in the PDI issue of May 9 and I was gladdened thereby because, after your very scathing remarks in your previous column on the outcome of the Peñalosa-Yamaguchi WBC International title bout in the 115-lb. class, you have given the opposite view as argued by our good friend, Rudy Salud. And because of this, I have decided to make a detailed presentation of why Yamaguchi was not such a poor selection to challenge Peñalosa.

"However, I would like to clear certain misimpressions on the role of the GAB in the choice of opponents (especially foreign).

"The Games and Amusement Board, as the official national agency regulating and supervising professional sports in the Philippines, is, at the same time, a member of international boxing organizations such as WBA, WBO, WBC, IBF and also a member of the regional boxing organizations known as OPBF.

"As member thereof, the GAB is obliged to consent to the bouts, more especially title fights such as the Peñalosa-Yamaguchi WBC Int'l. title fight, as sanctioned by the above-mentioned organizations.

"Traditionally, it is presumed that matches sanctioned by these bodies have been made after meticulous consideration of the fighters' relative records, skills and experiences, not to mention their health, of course. These bodies maintain libraries and records of all the fights of all boxers rated/listed in their organizations and are therefore the most capable in determining fighters' capabilities. Yamaguchi was a former WBA world light flyweight champion. Probably to challenge for the world title his credentials would not have been sufficient for a fair match. But, for the WBC title in his mandatory challenge of the winner of the Tokuyama-Injoo Cho fight, then certainly Yamaguchi would be a poor challenger to Gerry.

***

"World titles are the property and possession of these sanctioning bodies and therefore it is only fitting that these bodies—while they may not all be of equal prestige, standing and international acceptance—deserve recognition as the sole authority to adopt policies and prescribe rules and regulations.

"This authority includes ruling on matchmaking and sanctioning title bouts. It must be presumed, therefore, that the sanctioning body, in this case no less than the WBC which is the most prestigious of all, has found that the bout is aboveboard and the qualifications/credentials of the protagonists have been meticulously compared and analyzed to prevent mismatches.

"However, despite the diligence with which these matches are scrutinized, there can be no guarantee of an extended slam-bang affair as desired by most of us despite our national biases.

"When Malcolm Tuñacao, our erstwhile world flyweight champion, lost his WBC title in a 3-knockdwon rule in the 1st round of his title defense against Pongsaklek, it would be absurd of any boxing expert to conclude that a reigning world champion was not qualified to face a challenger just because he lasted only one round.

"The great Max Schemelling knocked out the equally great Joe Louis in a late round of a 15-round title fight and in a return bout lost to Joe via knockout in the first round. I do not believe that there ever was an analyst or boxing commentator who dubbed Schemelling an unworthy challenger to Louis.

"The above are only two of a litany of bouts ending in 1st round knockouts where the losers were not considered patsies but worthy gladiators. *Sa totoo lang.*"

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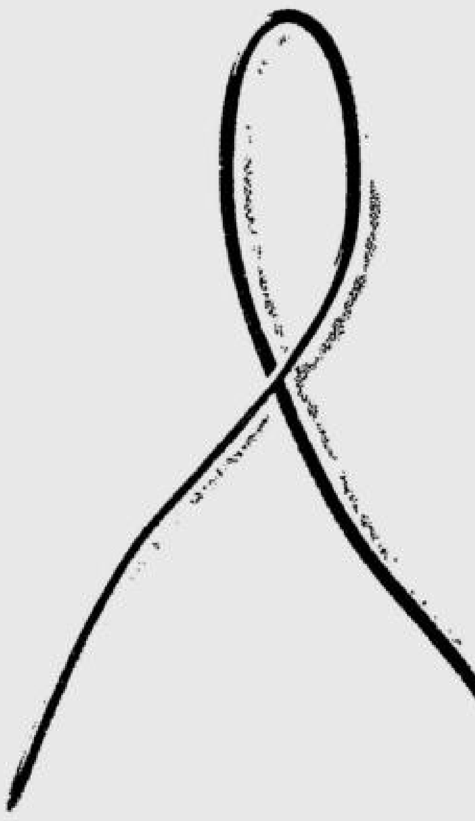

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The painful fact is, if you're age 25 up, male, exposed to stress, harsh chemicals and unbalanced diet you are bound to lose hair. Anyone of these can trigger falling hair, which if not immediately arrested, can lead to irreversible stage of baldness. In fact due to the prevalence of baldness, many so-called remedies have come out in the market claiming wonders and magic to bring back your hair. Unfortunately most of them just don't work. They can also cause harmful side effects.

Good thing there are scientifically-tested and highly-effective hair growth formula available today. One of these is Minoxidil Regroe. Regroe is a result of years of study in the U.S. and is one of the few medications that has proven its efficacy. Eighty percent of users have grown their hair back in 6 months. While results vary from case to case- some start to grow their hair back as early as two months-most of the users are satisfied with the product. At the first month of use, falling hair stops. At two months, new hair starts to grow. At 6 months, all lost hair would have been recovered. That is how effective Regroe is.

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MMDA employee slain

By Carina Roncesvalles and Myla Torres

A WOMAN employee of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority was stabbed dead in San Andres Bukid, Manila yesterday.

Editha Lasaca, 37, of Onyx Street, Paco, was found dead by her aunt Isabel Montilla at 12:30 p.m. in Montilla's house at 2433 Mercurio St., San Andres Bukid.

SPO1 Edgardo Paterno of the city police's homicide section said Lasaca suffered several stab wounds, and a dagger was found still embedded below her left armpit.

Investigation showed that Lasaca and her former housemate, Feliza Nombre, went to Montilla's house in San Andres Bukid. Lasaca and Nombre were said to have been having misunderstandings since they separated a month ago.

Police were still looking for Nombre for questioning.

Bags of wheat stolen by 6

By Jeusa Raflores and JP Andaquig

ABOUT six armed men stole about 520 bags of wheat worth P300,000 from a 40-footer trailer truck they stopped in Paco, Manila yesterday at dawn.

Police said the truck, driven by Rosalio Tatel, was on its way to Simon Enterprises Inc. on Romualdez Street in Ermita, Manila when the armed men stopped the truck, claiming they would inspect the vehicle for illegal drugs.

When Tatel and his companion, helper Jeorge Iserio, refused to get off the truck, the armed men dragged out both of them, police said.

Case investigator SPO3 Gordius Alumbro said that the two workers were led to the armed men's bluish-green Mitsubishi Adventure van with no license plates. The van was escorted by a white Toyota 1-300 van, police said.

The driver said they traversed Osmeña Highway, Quirino Avenue, Roxas Boulevard and Aguinaldo Highway. The armed men dropped them at a toll gate in Cavite City, he said.

On May 7, about six armed men on board a blue Toyota Revo also robbed a parked truck (WAD-979) along Sto. Sepulcro Street in Paco.

Collegian homecoming today

THE PHILIPPINE Collegian is holding an alumni homecoming at 7 p.m. today at the Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman.

The Collegian is the weekly student newspaper of the University of the Philippines Diliman, whose roster of alumni includes senatorial candidates Joker Arroyo, Franklin Drilon, Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Homobono Adaza.

Reelectionist Defensor-Santiago, who holds the distinction of being the first woman editor in chief of the Philippine Collegian, also holds the distinction of being the only alumna not invited to the event.

The Collegian homecoming tonight will also honor outstanding alumni such as Arroyo, Drilon, Interior Secretary Joey Lina, Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, Sheila Coronel of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, and prosecutors Edcel Lagman, Alexander Poblador and Marichu Lambino.

All fomer Collegian staffers are invited to the alumni homecoming tonight. While the organizers were not able to send everyone their invitations, all Collegian alumni are welcome to attend tonight's event—unless your name is Miriam Santiago.

For inquiries, call the Collegian office at 920-5301 local 6640 and (0915)-7129583, or e-mail the staff at kule@peyups.com.

'Martilyo' suspect slain

By Philip C. Tubeza

MEMBERS of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) yesterday morning killed a suspected member of the "Martilyo Gang" during an alleged shootout in Quezon City.

Tammy T. Mamalinta, 36, a security guard and a resident of Tatalon, Quezon City, died after he shot it out with police in Barangay Immaculate Conception, said investigator SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU).

Mamalinta's two companions escaped in a light brown Tamaraw FX van which had no license plates, Barrameda said.

Mamalinta had two gunshot wounds in the chest and another in the right wrist, said Insp. Solomon Segundo of the CPD's Scene of the Crime Operations (Soco) team.

Police found two empty cal. 45 bullets and a spent shell of a cal. .38 revolver at the scene of the alleged shootout, Segundo said.

He said Mamalinta had on him a *paltik* (homemade) cal. .38 revolver when he fell dead on the pavement.

Police claimed they also found a fragmentation grenade near Mamalinta's left foot.

Barrameda said CIDG members led by Chief Insp. Michael S. Filart were trailing the Martilyo Gang members on board the FX van before the shootout started around 5:45 a.m. yesterday.

Police had been trailing the van since they noticed it in Cubao. But when they reached Rosario Drive in Barangay Immaculate Conception, the men on board the van apparently noticed that they were being followed.

Police said Mamalinta alighted from the van and opened fire at the policemen's cars. The lawmen said they returned fire and hit Mamalinta.

Barrameda said Mamalinta's body was later brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy.

Deadly joke

By Christian V. Esguerra and Paul Ernest Lazaro

A CARELESS joke turned deadly when a woman was accidentally shot dead by her neighbor Wednesday night in Malabon, police said.

Store owner Emma Delfin, 36, a resident of Samlet Compound, Tugatog, died of bullet wounds in the throat and face after she was accidentally shot by Longino Verancis, 40, at 9 p.m. near her house, case investigator PO2 Christoper Rodriguez said.

Verancis, Delfin and a certain Jason Meneses were reportedly exchanging pleasantries at Delfin's store when the shooting occurred. Verancis reportedly bragged about his homemade gun and jokingly poked it at Delfin when it suddenly went off, hitting the woman.

Members of the Malabon Police Station Investigation and Intelligence Bureau said they would file charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide against Verancis, who fled after the accident.

Abalos: Post 'clean-up bond'

By Nelson F. Flores

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday said he would ask the Commission on Elections to include in its reform of the electoral process the compulsory posting of appropriate "clean-up bond" by local and national candidates to finance the clean-up of campaign debris during elections.

Abalos made the suggestion after reports reaching his office showed that MMDA personnel were having a hard time cleaning up the metropolis due of the huge volume of waste left by the candidates.

"The clean-up of Metro Manila and the other major campaign centers are not the sole responsibility of the MMDA and the respective local government units concerned but primarily of the candidates, who were responsible for the mess in the first place," Abalos stressed.

He said the clean-up bond will be returned, however, if the candidates themselves would initiate their own cleaning campaign.

Abalos also asked the Comelec to review the lifting of the political ad ban. Although he favors a general relaxation of the ad ban, Abalos said there should be rules and guidelines to follow to avoid a repeat of the magnitude of the garbage that accumulated during the campaign and election in Metro Manila.

Earlier, Abalos asked mayors to help in the clean-up of Metro Manila. He said waste collected by the local government units should either be recycled if possible, or properly disposed of in MMDA recycling and composting centers.

Abalos said the waste segregation scheme for household and commercial waste cannot be implemented unless a general clean-up of Metro Manila is effected. Under the scheme, household and commercial wastes should be segregated into degradable and non-biodegradable lots before they would be collected by garbage collectors.

Woman nabbed burying 'fetus'

By Jerome Aning

A SUSPECTED abortionist was caught allegedly burying a jar containing a fetus on a street in Paco, Manila Wednesday night.

A group of youth apprehended Vivian Libre, 34, a janitress and a resident of Santo Sepulcro Street, allegedly while she was digging in the traffic island in the middle of President Quirino Avenue near the corner of Pedro Gil Street at 11:15 p.m. on Wednesday.

The group turned over to the Western Police District homicide section Libre after they found that the jar she was burying contained what appeared to be bits of flesh from a human fetus.

Chief Insp. Juanito Taluban, head of the homicide section, said they were waiting for results of the autopsy on the jar's contents.

Police said Libre could be working for an abortionist or could be one herself.

But Libre said she was merely following a secret ritual that was meant to strengthen her magical powers against witchcraft.

Police described Libre's alibi as weird. They appear hesitant to build a case against her since she was caught disposing of a fetus and not in the act of performing an abortion.

Libre told case investigator SPO1 Edgardo Ko that the jar contained only pig's blood and viscera. She said she also placed in the jar Latin incantations written on a piece of paper, which were supposed to keep the body parts from becoming fully human.

But police inquiries from residents in the area revealed that a woman, believed to be Libre, was seen by some of the residents burying two jars containing fetuses on the same spot on Tuesday night.

Police said they would dig up portions of the traffic island on Quirino Avenue if autopsy results would show that the jar they found on Libre contained parts of a human fetus.

Libre has been detained at the WPD-Integrated Jail.

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6. Deadline of submission of entries are as follows:

Promo Period	Deadline of Entries	Draw Date
May 18, 2001- June18, 2001	June 18, 2001	July 3, 2001
June 19, 2001-July 18, 2001	July 18, 2001	Aug. 3, 2001
July 19, 2001 – Aug. 18, 2001	Aug. 18, 2001	Sept. 3, 2001

7. Beawmont Distributions, Inc. will not be liable for entries sent but not received.
8. Monthly raffle draws will be held at 4:30 p.m. at the CASIO SHOWROOM located at the Ground Floor, SM Southmall, Las Pinas City on the above mentioned Draw Dates in the presence of a DTI Representative.
9. There will be 20 winners of NOKIA 6210 cell phones for every month.
10. All entries received on or before the deadlines are qualified to join the draw. Entrants who failed to submit entries before cut-off period will be included in the next draw.
11. All non-winning entries from previous promo draws are still qualified to join in the succeeding draws.
12. Winners can only win once during the entire promo period. Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
13. Winners will be notified by registered mail and are required to present the mail, owner's copy of warranty card, and any valid proof of identification to the address specified in the written notice when claiming their prize.
14. In case where the winner, for acceptable reasons, cannot personally claim his prize, a proxy may be sent to represent the winner on his behalf and claim the prize. He must present the handwritten authorization letter signed by the winner, together with the winner's valid Identification Card and of his authorized representative, registered mail from BDI, and the Owner's copy of warranty card.
15. Prizes unclaimed until 60 days from the receipt of notification will be forfeited with prior approval from DTI.
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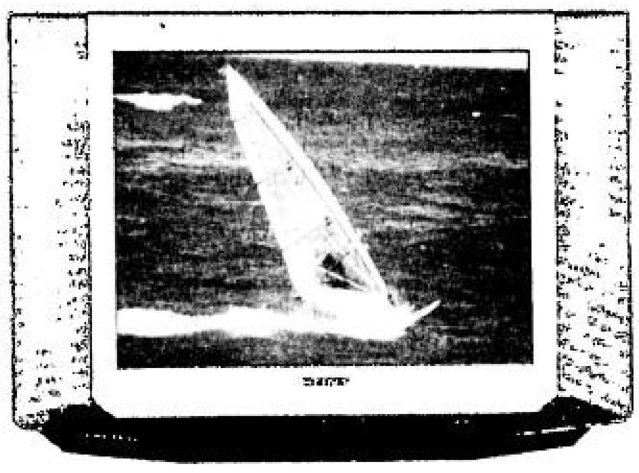

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Songs kids should sing

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ON "Ang Batang Kampeon" last week host **Pilita Corrales** asked an important question that she urged the judges of the kiddie singing contest to answer: What kinds of songs should young singers perform?

We deem this question important because some parents here have a penchant for making their kids sing adult, "belting" songs about love, betrayal and loss when their children join singing competitions.

In addition, they dress their kids up in grown-up clothes, apply thick make-up on their faces and coach them to make cornily melodramatic gestures and facial expressions.

Why do parents and singing coaches want to make child singers look and sound like pint-sized versions of **Mariah Carey** and **Ricky Martin**? Clearly, the kids are far too young to sex it up and sound desperate and anguished!

Pilita and the contest's judges agreed that child singers should sing songs with lyrics appropriate to their tender ages. They urged young singers' mentors to stop making them come off like little clones of adult singers. But, why are child performers given this kind of packaging in these parts?

First, there's the feeling that local music lovers, and presumably judges of singing contests, favor belters, singers whose voices are so strong that they can practically cause wine glasses to smash into smithereens.

Now, most belting, "competition" songs are about love, passion and romantic angst, so parents assign these "for adults" songs to their kids, because they want to make sure that they will win those singing contests.

Well, Pilita and the "Ang Batang Kampeon" judges assure parents that they don't favor such songs, and they wish that young singers interpret songs that are more child-friendly.

Let's hope that, in the weeks and months to come, parents of child singers will change their tack in this regard, and teach their kids songs that are more appropriate to them.

After all, they want to get on the good side of contest judges, don't they? And those judges have clearly stated that they don't favor young singers who sing like adults.

But what about the adult and even "sexy" packaging in terms of clothes, make-up and gestures? You can blame that on our general tendency to dress kids up like little adults, even when they aren't performers.

Can we please stop subjecting our kids to such artificial and unenlightened treatment? Let kids look and sound like kids—they'll have decades of adulthood to contend with later, anyway.

This holds true not just for child singers, but also for all of those Little Ms. Philippines contestants who are dolled up in those prodigiously huge and sequinned gowns, thick make-up and fussy hairstyles. Enough, already!

TV treats

AT 2 p.m. today on Star Movies, "Life with Mikey" stars **Michael J. Fox**, **Cyndi Lauper** and **Nathan Lane**. Fox plays a former child star who has become a talent agent. He faces a bleak future until he turns a young pickpocket into a television commercial sensation.

On "You Pick the Flick" this week on Star Movies, viewers are invited to choose their favorite film from these titles: "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "Entrapment," "Notting Hill," "Iron Eagle 2" and "Arachnophobia." Vote on www.youpicktheflick.com. The winning film will be aired today at 9 p.m.

At 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Super People" shows how athletes push the limits of human physical performance.

At 10 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Shark Secrets" focuses on the unique ways that sharks adapt to new conditions and dangers in the deep.

'Miss Saigon' to premiere in HK today

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

AFTER its enormous success around the world, "Miss Saigon" touches down in Hong Kong as it premieres tonight, with Filipino talents leading the cast.

The **Cameron McKintosh** musical will be staged at the Hong Kong Cultural Center, where other world-class musicals like "Phantom of the Opera," "Cats" and "Les Miserables" were also seen by an international audience.

But "Miss Saigon" is being touted as the most spectacular event to be staged in Hong Kong. It reportedly costs HK$45 million and has a cast of 46, with over a hundred people behind the production.

The mega-props which "Miss Saigon" has become known for all over the world, will be seen anew on the Hong Kong stage—the helicopter, the shiny Cadillac and the towering statue of **Ho Chi Minh**.

"Miss Saigon" goes to Hong Kong after its successful, six-month run in Manila.

Leo Valdez reprises his role of The Engineer, with **Deedee Magno** as Kim.

Leo previously played The Engineer in London, Australia and Manila. US-born Magno, meanwhile, essayed the role in Broadway.

Ima Castro will alternate as Kim, her second time to play it after she did the coveted role during the second half of the Manila run of "Miss Saigon."

The romantic male lead of Chris is played by **Scott Anson**, who was also seen in the second half of the Manila production, after he did it in West End.

The cast rehearsed in Sydney for two weeks before coming to Hong Kong. From there, they will proceed to Singapore, where "Miss Saigon" will also be staged starting July.

British-born **Guy Simpson**, the musical director in Manila, will also work with the cast in Hong Kong.

"Miss Saigon" goes onstage in Hong Kong Tuesdays to Sundays at 7:45 p.m., with 2:30 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays.

The tickets are priced at HK$695, $495 and $350 for the evening performances, while matinee shows sell tickets for $595, $395 and $295.

Hong Kong is only the third Asian country where "Miss Saigon" has been staged, after Japan and the Philippines.

Making his presence felt

MANNY Pangilinan has started to make waves in the TV industry. He recently treated the whole GMA news team to dinner, which sources from within the network claim was a big morale booster from the incoming head honcho of PLDT.

Even before Pangilinan's takeover of GMA, expected to be in a few weeks, the business magnate has shown unwavering support for the station.

The recent GMA news coverage of the elections has PLDT's muscle imprinted all over it such as nationwide multi-point links, wireless phone access, hotlines, satellite access, helicopters, plus the financial/sponsorship support.

Pangilinan's convergence platform plus the credibility, integrity and dedication of the GMA news team built over the years gave GMA's election coverage international flair.

We hear GMA executives and employees are eagerly awaiting the entry of PLDT and Pangilinan to strengthen the network in its competition with ABS-CBN.

Film pirate nabbed

A BUSINESSMAN from Baguio City was charged with 10 counts of violating a provision of the decree on intellectual property rights.

Macky Magpili was found guilty on all counts by the Regional Trial Court.

In his final decision, Judge **Antonio Reyes** sentenced the accused to suffer for each count, a prison term of six months, and pay a fine of P150,000 also for each count.

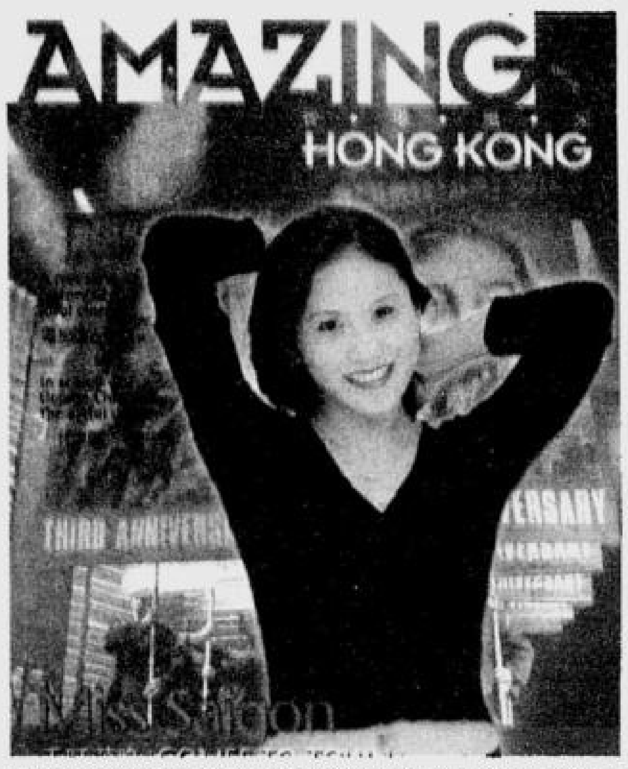
Filed by the Motion Picture Anti-Film Piracy Council headed by lawyer **Esperidion Laxa**, the said case was the result of a surveillance by National Bureau of Investigation operatives on the illegal activities of the cable TV company Northwire and Cable Communications Corporation (Northcomm), being managed by Magpili.

The operations which lasted two days were recorded in three video cassettes with the movies shown illegally on Northcomm channels 11 and 23—"Manila Girl," "Alyas Boy Ama," "Reputasyon," "The Preacher's Wife," "Three Ninjas," "Bounty Hunters," "The Adventures of Pinocchio," "Ang TV The Movie," "Nagmumurang Kamatis" and "Aringkingking."

"This is a positive sign in our campaign against film piracy," says project officer **Emerito San Buenaventura**. "At least, the public is now aware that we in the council are dead serious in putting all violators behind bars. We just hope that we can soon catch the big fish no matter how powerful he or she is. When it's done, the film industry will surely flourish again."

For his part, Laxa has issued to the media the council's monthly report for March 2001 which contains the number of video outlets inspected and illegal items seized by the Task Force under the leadership of chair **Leonardo Monteverde** and his deputy **Ferdie Paz**.

It its summary details, more than 20,000 copies of pirated VCDs and CDs and several equipment were acquired from about the 300 establishments that were raided in Metro Manila and the provinces.



DEEDEE Magno on the cover of "Amazing Hong Kong:" She plays Kim in the Hong Kong production of the Cameron McKintosh musical.

Boo-boos in May 16 polls

BY CARMELA REYES
AND ANSELMO ROQUE
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BULACAN, Bulacan—"Madam Claudia Buenavista" for governor?

Call it a joke or fanaticism but some voters here who must have been religiously watching a popular TV soap opera had actually written "Madam Claudia" in their ballots for Bulacan governor—much to the delight of poll watchers and officials.

Laughter echoed at the hall of a precinct in Barangay Sta. Ines here when an election official read eight ballots intended for "Madam Claudia Buenavista" and her rival "Boborol," both of whom are characters in the ABS-CBN primetime soap "Pangako Sa 'Yo."

In the soap, "Madam Claudia," played by actress Jean Garcia, and "Mayor Boborol," played by a bit actor, are bitter political enemies running for governor of the province called "Puntaverde."

In the latest twist in the soap, the wicked "Madam Claudia" lost to the pro-people "Boborol."

"Madam Claudia," the wife of the outgoing governor, was preparing for an election protest against "Boborol" for alleged cheating.

Gubernatorial bets

It took several minutes for precinct 140-A chair, Ludy Paz Angeles, a teacher at the Sta. Ana elementary school, to verify the list of the gubernatorial bets in Bulacan after she encountered names such as "Buenavista," "Boborol" and "Madame Claudia" in the ballots.

The official bets for Bulacan governor are re-electionist Gov. Josefina de la Cruz and Luz Parungao-Viado, who was disqualified.

"At first, we have no idea who these people were. When we looked at the official list and those names were not included, we just ignored them," Angeles told the INQUIRER.

As she read "Madam Claudia" on the second ballot and "Madam Claudia Buenavista" on the third ballot, the crowd at the precinct suddenly laughed and cheered.

Some poll watchers told Angeles that those names were characters in the famous TV soap.

Four ballots

In the succeeding four ballots, the election officer read the name "Boborol" to the pleasure of the people watching the counting of the votes.

Poll clerk Rose Salvo said the votes could have come from one family who must have been fans of the soap opera.

"At least we had a good laugh to break the monotony (of poll duties). We need this because our work is really strenuous," she said.

She, however, pointed out that although the eight residents wrote the wrong persons in the gubernatorial position, they had filled up the correct names of candidates in other positions in their ballots.

In Cabanatuan City, an election officer has unwittingly provided the comic relief this time.

Provincial election supervisor Severino Santos rushed to Cabanatuan City hall on Tuesday to direct city election officer Manuel Tambalque to stop the canvassing of election returns.

When Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Balane) party lawyers argued with Santos, they asked him to give them the details of the Comelec order from Manila directing them to stop the canvassing.

When he read again his copy, Santos realized that the order was not meant for this city but for the Science City of Munoz, 30 km north of Cabanatuan.

Santos apologized and the canvassing resumed.

The whole scene was heard live by Novo Ecijanos over a local radio station.

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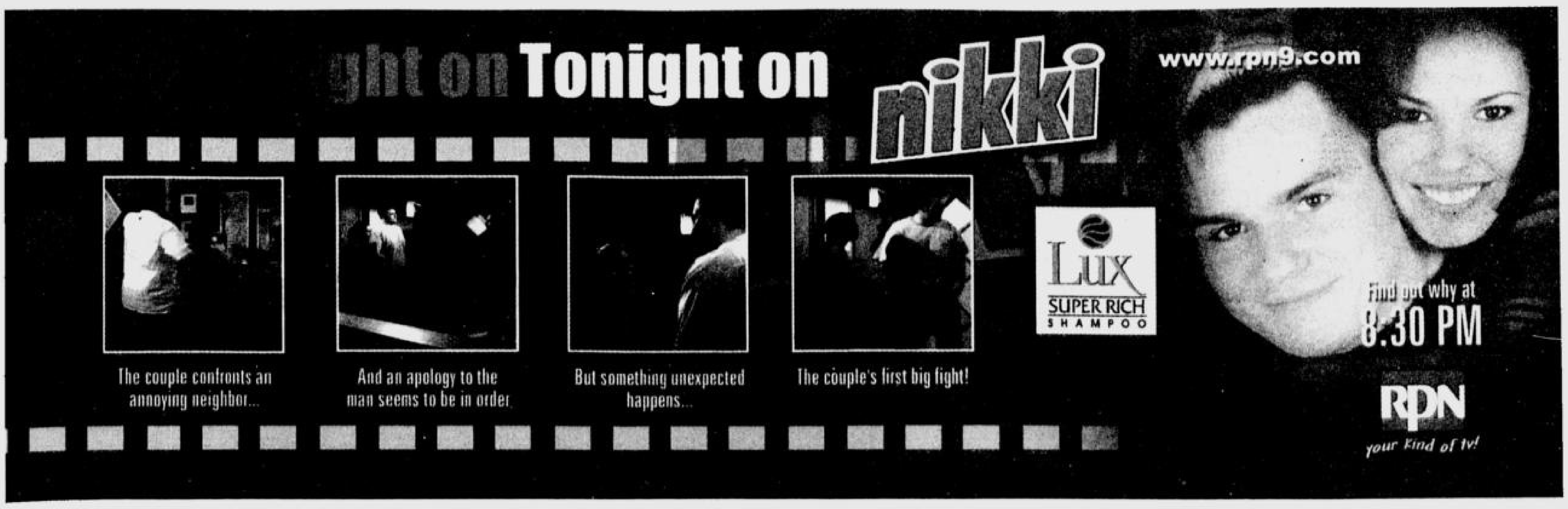
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8	DOLBY SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

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4	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	15 MINNUTES
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR AND SPICE
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	VALENTINE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
10	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
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1	DOLBY DIGITAL	VALENTINE
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	SUGAR & SPICE
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
11	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
12	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	KUNG LILIGAYA KA.
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3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	POSSESSED

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1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	POSSESSED
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	15 MINUTES
9	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
5	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
7	DTS	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	VALENTINE
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN

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3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VALENTINE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
9	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	ULTRA SURROUND	POSSESSED

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	POSSESSED
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3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN

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2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CROW
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
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5	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
4	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CROW
5	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	HALIK NG SERENA

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1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MINSAN MAY ISANG PUSO
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3	THE POSSESSED
4	15 MINUTES

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2	15 MINUTES	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	VALENTINE THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	THE CRIMSON RIVERS (Phil. Premiere) Art Film	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	LUCKY NUMBERS	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	SPY KIDS	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	EXIT WOUNDS	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

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2	SPY KIDS	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SOMEONE LIKE YOU	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MAY 18 - 19 MOTHER TONGUE Onstage	

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3	VALENTINE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	THE POSSESSED	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
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2 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4 GOLD (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE POSSESSED
6 GOLD (SDDS)	DOUBLE TAKE
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	VALENTINE
8 [illegible]	BALIKTARAN
9 [illegible]	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10 [illegible]	15 MINUTES

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2	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
3 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

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2 (DTS)	15 MINUTES
3	THE GIFT

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2	PILAK
3	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

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2	SPY KIDS
3	PILAK
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	VALENTINE
5	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

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2	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
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7	VALENTINE
8	PILAK

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3	RESERVE
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5	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
6	PILAK
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8 (SDDS)	VALENTINE
9 (DOLBY)	POSSESSED

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3	SPY KIDS
4	BALIKTARAN
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6	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
7 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
8	PILAK

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2	BALIKTARAN
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4	PILAK
5 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS

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1	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

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Mandaluyong
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2	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
3	RESERVE
4	SPY KIDS

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1	
2	PILAK

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

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2	VALENTINE
3	POSSESSED
4	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
5	PILAK

New Divisoria Mall
CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
2	SPY KIDS
3	PILAK
4	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
5	RESERVE
6	KUNG LILIGAYA KA

Baclaran LRT
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2	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
3	PILAK
4	
5	

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3 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
4	BALIKTARAN

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2	POSSESSED
3	SPY KIDS
4 (DTS)	PILAK

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2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	ANTI TRUST
4	SUGAR & SPICE
5	ATTACK FORCE

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3	SUGAR & SPICE

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2	SPY KIDS
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2	WEDDING PLANNER
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2 (DTS)	RESERVE

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3	SAY IT ISN'T SO
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3	
4	

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Campus Radio premieres 'The Mummy Returns'

BRENDAN Fraser reprises his role as Rick O'Connell in "The Mummy Returns," the much-awaited sequel to the box-office hit "The Mummy."

Watch it before everyone else in an advanced screening at the Shangri-La Plaza Cinema 2, 8 tonight, courtesy of Campus Radio 97.1 dwLS-FM and Channel [V] Philippines.

Ten years after their first adventure in Egypt, the remains of Rick's 3,000-year-old nemesis, Imhotep, is brought to a London museum. And soon, Imhotep is again walking the earth determined to fulfill his quest for immortality at the expense of Rick's nine-year-old son with Evelyn (Rachel Weisz).

Another force has also been set loose, one born of the darkest rituals of ancient Egypt mysticism. Again, the O'Connells must go on a hair-raising adventure to drive the mummies back to the tomb and save not only the world but their precious little boy.

Regular theater run of "The Mummy Returns" starts on May 23.

Winning filmfest movies on video

C-INTERACTIVE Digital Entertainment releases last year's big winners at the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF).

Under the Regal Home Video label, it includes "Tanging Yaman," "Spirit Warriors" and "Sugatang Puso."

The films are available in original copies.

Winner of best picture and other major awards, "Tanging Yaman" is a family drama of epic proportion with a star-studded cast led by Gloria Romero, Edu Manzano, Dina Bonnevie, Johnny Delgado, Joel Torre and a batch of new young stars.

Best in visual effects winner "Spirit Warriors" is a horror-adventure film about a bunch of high school chums who got themselves deep into ghost hunting. Starring the Streetboys, "Spirit Warriors" is also the festival's top moneymaker.

Completing the package is the Lorna Tolentino-Christopher de Leon's starrer, "Sugatang Puso," which is about a married couple each one with a son from their previous relationship. It also stars Patrick Garcia, Carlo Aquino and Cherrie Gil, who won the best supporting actress award.

Aside from local films under the Regal Home Video, C-Interactive is also an exclusive distributor of several Hollywood blockbusters and popular PC games.

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6. SWEET NOVEMBER

DOLBY dts SDDS

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALIKTARAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	VALENTINE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	15 MINUTES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE POSSESSED
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	15 MINUTES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	KAMANDAG NG ROSAS / OBJECT OF OBSESION
ODEON	VALENTINE
ODEON-2	POSSESSED
ROBEN	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	MS CONGENIALITY / DEMON GATE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
QUEZON-1	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
REMAR	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
REMAR-2	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
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OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED
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CINEMA-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA..
CINEMA-2	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-3	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LUCKY NUMBERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-6	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-7	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VALENTINE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	15 MINUTES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-12	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
CINEMA-14	THE POSSESSED
CINEMA-15	EXIT WOUNDS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THE POSSESSED
CINEMA-2	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-3	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
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CINEMA-6	SPY KIDS

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

I visited Mandaluyong, but not to check on Ipe's vote

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I TAPED in Boracay on Friday and Saturday. That's why I missed my deadline for Monday's column.

Boracay is heavenly! This was my third trip to the island paradise. Since I was taping spiels in many different locations, I got to explore so much of the place, had a blast riding around in a tricycle, and got to sample delicious Carribean-inspired food at Caribo (yummy Arroz a la Cubana), excellent and authentic Thai food at Café Sun Thai at Sand Castles Resort.

I also enjoyed a Mongolian Grill spread since **Nenette Graf** the charming proprietress of Café Sun Thai let us sample the specialties of both her restaurant outlets.

I took Asian Spirit, and take it from me, since I'm not exactly a daredevil when it comes to physical courage, there's nothing to fear in riding small planes.

I must admit though, that the Asian Spirit 40-seater which I took on the way back is the best plane to take. It's newer and the seats are better appointed!

Long car trips really make me dizzy and landing in Caticlan is so much more convenient than the bigger Kalibo airport, which can accommodate the larger commercial airlines.

Le Soleil de Boracay was my home for the night I was there. **PeeJay**, the resident manager, took great care for me. The room I was given was very cool, comfortable and beautifully decorated. If you're particular about the bathroom, Le Soleil has very strong water pressure, and the running water was fresh and didn't taste salty.

I already promised **Josh** that we'd spend his 6th birthday next month in Boracay since he's an absolute water baby, and I just couldn't bring myself to enjoy the surf and sand without him frolicking nearby.

* * *

Election night Monday brought me to the streets of Mandaluyong City. But I was not visiting the precincts to check on how **Philip Salvador** was faring.

One of my best friends, **Tatus Aldana**, had dinner with me and he needed to pick up some CDs for inspiration for the soundtrack of his latest production, a **Judy Ann Santos** starrer for Maverick Films.

If you're not a resident, the streets are quite confusing and the numbers of the houses would inexplicably jump from the teens to the hundreds, probably a new zoning system. As luck would have it, we landed on the street where the Abalos family lives.

We had been travelling around in circles for almost 30 minutes already, and I figured we should ask the residents how to get to the house we were looking for. In fairness to the supporters of **Ben Hur Abalos** who were outside his home, they were very helpful and really gave us clear instructions on how to reach our destination.

Tatus, bless his heart, is a truly loyal friend and employee. He got his producing break from **Jesse Ejercito** and he was also in charge of promo and publicity for the now-defunct Millennium Films owned by **Jinggoy Ejercito**.

One of the few Metro Manila mayors who took an active role in Edsa Dos, Ben Hur is obviously not on the top of Tatus' most admired list. Obviously, the people there were solid supporters of Ben Hur and **Jesse Cruz**, the incumbent vice mayor whom Philip had opposed.

After they gave us the directions, Tatus said, "*Kay* Ben Hur *ba kayo?*" A dozen or so in unison said yes.

While they were craning to get a glimpse of me inside the car, since they were on Tatus' side, he brattily said, "*Naku, ayoko sa inyo ha*" and he shut his window.

I nearly died of shame. For our entire ride back home, I kept berating him for his ill manners. He kept laughing and saying it was just in jest. I told him that all those people would now think I am ill-bred or at the very least, that I keep company with those who are.

I told him. "*Nagmagandang loob na 'yung mga tao, binastos mo pa. Buti na lang mabait sila at di tayo binato.*"

On my friend's behalf let me apologize to the supporters of Ben Hur. I was a resident of Mandaluyong and voted there in 1998. In fact, I had voted for Ben Hur.

Basing it on the unofficial returns, congratulations are in order. I just can't help but wish that his vice mayor had been Phillip.

I'm so glad we only have elections every three years. Friendships are so hard to maintain if you have different political affiliations. It's so hard not to get sensitive and take political choices personally, primarily because it's innate in our culture to be personality-centered.

Unfortunately, I don't think I could ever be as politically mature as the big partisan couple, **Arnold Schwarzenneger** and **Maria Shriver**. Maria belongs to the staunchly Democratic Kennedy clan while Arnold is a proud Republican and a close personal friend of the Bushes.

In an excerpt of Arnold's interview on ABC's "The View," he was joking about not being allowed to sleep in the master's bedroom during the whole Florida canvassing mess. Yet the two remain happily married.

I didn't vote 13-0. I went 11-2. **Noli de Castro** got my vote. Despite all the accusations against him, I remained convinced of his broadcasting integrity and I felt he would be an asset in the Senate.

Ed Angara got my vote because I was impressed with the fact that he was responsible for the bill, which paved the way for free secondary education. He was also the author of the Senior Citizens Act.

For my Party List, I voted for Bayan Muna primarily because of their first nominee **Satur Ocampo**, whom I've interviewed in the past and who won me over with his kind, soft-spoken yet highly intelligent manner. He struck me as being very pro-poor, a socialist, but not a rigid hardliner.

My only prayer now is that by 2004 we'll be blessed with computerized voting and tallying. We've fought for, won and guarded our democracy. Now, don't you think we truly deserve quick and efficient democratic exercises?

Newscasters bring good news about new skin care product

THREE of the country's more prominent and charming newscasters—RPN 9's Cristina Peczon, ABS-CBN's Christine Bersola and GMA 7's Bernadette Sembrano have been signed up to be the image models of the country's leading exfoliant, Extraderm.

The three ladies said the product has been working wonders on their skin, something they could not take care of properly because of their hectic schedules. Of course, they initially had to prove if the product was efficient before they agreed to endorse it.

Cris, Tintin and Bernadette are already recognized in the broadcast media, but with their Extraderm TV commercial, they expect to gain more prominence. They have combined good looks and credibility to send the message across for a valuable endorsement.

The three said they only take on a product they believe in because their credibility is naturally at stake. And they will never compromise their names or their profession.

Tintin, after spending five years on the early morning show "Alas Singko y Medya" which she hosted with real-life sweetheart Julius Babao, is now hosting "Talk TV," also with Julius and with Ryan Agoncillo and Janet McBride.

Cristina, who has endorsed a shampoo before, used to be with PTV 4. She was an anchor or co-anchor of various award-winning newscasts.

Bernadette, meanwhile, is a correspondent of "The Probe Team." Only two years in the broadcast media, she is now considered one of the most promising young broadcasters in the country.

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2nd Star Cinema scriptwriting contest now accepting entries

THE FIRST Annual Star Cinema scriptwriting contest truly opened doors of opportunity for many undiscovered film writers.

"Jologs," written by Ned Trespeces and last year's 1st prize winner, is scheduled to begin production in June. At the helm of the film project slated for a 2001 release is popular young director Joyce Bernal ("Tunay na Tunay," "Hey Babe" for Star Cinema).

Second prize winner, "Kudos" by Rogelio Ramos and third placer "P1.00/Min." by Paolo Herras, have likewise been offered to top caliber directors as film projects. Production for the said films are scheduled to begin soon.

However, it's not only the top three winners that are seeing movement with the scripts they submitted as entries to the scriptwriting contest. "The Videoke King," written by Ramon Sarmiento and one of the 12 finalists last year, is a movie slated for this year's release and has in fact started initial stages of production. It will be directed by Jerry Sineneng ("Soltera," "Pulubi at Prinsesa," "Mara Clara, The Movie," "Labs Kita, Ok Ka Lang," "Pangako sa 'Yo" for Star Cinema) and top-billed by Robin Padilla and Pops Fernandez.

In a great movie, the power of a single idea not only touches the lives of many audiences. It also changes the lives of those who had the determination to have their ideas seen and heard, as it does for the countless screenwriters who have succeeded in piecing together the story which the movie tells.

Thus, the 2nd Annual Star Cinema Scriptwriting Contest is launched once more to provide a venue for these ideas to flourish. The contest is open to all Filipinos, 18 years old and above, who wish to write full-length narrative manuscripts for film in any genre. Existing works are also accepted provided that the script has not yet won any award in competitions of a similar nature.

Works that have been commissioned by any other production outfit are likewise ineligible. Employees of Star Cinema and ABS-CBN are also disqualified from entering the contest.

At stake are tax-free cash prizes of P100,000 (1st place) P80,000 (2nd place) and P60,000 (3rd place), plus the chance to work with some of the country's most respected filmmakers and to eventually join Star Cinema's pool of exceptional scriptwriters.

Interested parties should get in touch with Star Cinema to obtain a copy of contest rules and regulations. Deadline for submission of entries is Aug. 9, 2001.

For inquiries, contact Star Cinema at 414-7820/ 415-2272 loc. 3906/3926. The office is at 41 Scout Borromeo st., Tomas Morato, QC.

You can also send questions via e-mail at star_script@abs.pinoycentral.com or visit the website at www.abs-cbn/starcinema/contest.com.

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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THE POSSESSED - P 13 11:25, 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:30	SPY KIDS - G 11:30, 1:20, 3:10, 5:00, 6:50, 8:40, 10:30	SOMEONE LIKE YOU - P 13 11:50, 2:05, 4:20, 6:35, 8:50, 11:10
VALENTINE - R 18 11:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	15 MINNUTES - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	SPY KIDS - G 10:30, 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:55, 7:50, 9:45

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

The Kennedys on E! Channel

E! PHILIPPINES' celebration of Hollywood and Politics on E! reaches its climax with an in-depth look at one of America's most fascinating and respectable families on the "E! True Hollywood Political Special: Hollywood and the Kennedys," May 20, 8 p.m.

After crossing the Atlantic from Ireland, the Kennedys became America's version of royalty after only one generation.

Take a journey through three generations of the Kennedys from Joe Sr. to Jack, Robert to the '90s heartthrob, John-John, and learn how they were able to intertwine world affairs with affairs in Hollywood.

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GREENBELT CINEMA
SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

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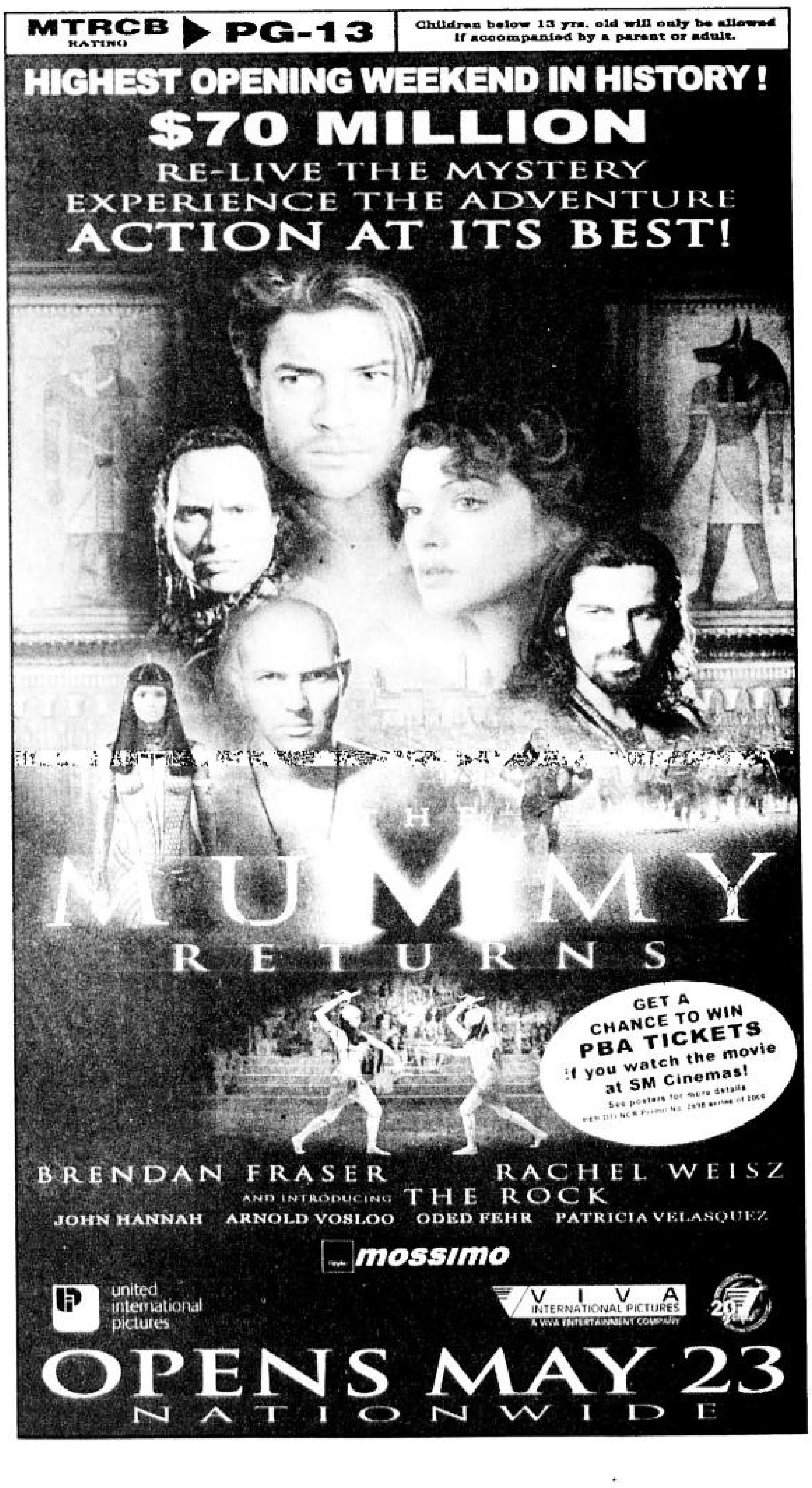
THE MUMMY RETURNS

BUY 4 Greenbelt Cinema Tickets
on May 12-18 & get *FREE* Invitation to the
SPECIAL ADVANCED SCREENING of
THE
MUMMY
RETURNS
BRENDAN FRASER RACHEL WEISZ
May 18, Friday - 7:00 pm
Greenbelt Cinema 2
Promo is valid for every single or accumulated purchase of Greenbelt Cinema Tickets on May 12-18.
Per DTI NCR Permit No. AI - 0250 Series of 2001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EXPERIENCE THE ADVENTURE
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GET A CHANCE TO WIN PBA TICKETS if you watch the movie at SM Cinemas!
See posters for more details
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united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
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NATIONWIDE

TOTAL LOWER COST

Back To School

GALA
Apple
1 kg.
PRICE P65.00
Reg. Price 80.00

MEAL MASTER
Porterhouse
*Not available in Makati
PRICE P215.00/kg.
Reg. Price 310.00/kg.

MONTEREY
Pork Sinigang Cut
PRICE P86.00/kg.
Reg. Price 106.00/kg.

SWIFT
Sweet 'n Juicy Hotdog
Regular
1 kg.
PRICE P93.00
Reg. Price 98.75

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Chicken Tocino
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PRICE P43.50
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Special Squid Balls
400 g.
PRICE P44.00
Reg. Price 46.25

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Chicken Powder
1 kg.
PRICE P207.50
Reg. Price 213.50

LASAP
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- Crispy
- Hot & Spicy
- Garlic Flavor
- BBQ

65 g
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Reg. Price 12.75

LEE KUM KEE
Panda Oyster Sauce
510 g (18 oz.)
PRICE P72.50
Reg. Price 80.50

HUNT'S
Spaghetti Sauce
Traditional
Pouch
250 g.
PRICE P16.50
Reg. Price 17.50

DEL MONTE
Tomato Sauce
Pouch
250 g
PRICE P12.40
Reg. Price 12.95

MAGIC FRY
Pure Vegetable Oil
Plastic
1 Liter
PRICE P31.75
Reg. Price 32.50

SM BONUS
Sardines
- In Tomato Sauce

155 g
PRICE P6.50

CAMPO CARNE
Chinese Luncheon Meat
375 g
PRICE P32.00
Reg. Price 33.25

ARGENTINA
Corned Beef
175 g. 4's
PRICE P87.50
Reg. Price 89.50

PHILIPS
Vienna Sausage
114 g.
PRICE P16.25
Reg. Price 16.75

ARGENTINA
- Beef Mechado
- Pork Adobo
- Lechon Paksiw
- Chicken Pork Afritada
- Beef Caldereta

155 g
PRICE P13.70
Reg. Price 14.50

BEST FOODS
Real Mayonnaise
470 mL.
PRICE P62.25
Reg. Price 63.75

KRAFT
Eden Filled Cheese
- with Butter Milk

200 g.
PRICE P23.00
Reg. Price 24.00

KRAFT
Cheez Whiz
- Plain

250 g
PRICE P41.50
Reg. Price 43.50

LUCKY ME!
Instant Noodles
- Beef

55 g.
PRICE P3.85
Reg. Price 3.95

MAGGI
Instant Champorado
85 g
PRICE P14.50
Reg. Price 15.50

KELLOGG'S
Krispies Treats
- Cocoa
- Rice

18 g/6's
PRICE P47.75
Reg. Price 49.75

NESCAFE
Classic Coffee
Sachet
2 g/84's
PRICE P101.50
Reg. Price 104.50

COFFEE-MATE
Coffee Creamer
Sachet
5 g/48's
PRICE P63.50
Reg. Price 65.50

NIDO
Full Cream Milk Powder
450 g
PRICE P89.00
Reg. Price 90.50

ENSURE
Complete, Balanced Nutrition Milk
- Vanilla

1 kg
PRICE P825.25
Reg. Price 868.50

ALASKA
Choco Milk Drink
250 mL.
PRICE P10.50
Reg. Price 11.50

ALASKA
Sweetened Condensed Milk
300 mL.
PRICE P26.25
Reg. Price 27.00

ARCTIC
Candy
- Mintburst
- Spearmintburst

108 g.
PRICE P18.50
Reg. Price 19.50

LOACKER
Quadratini
- Napolitaner
- Kakao
- Wildberry
- Vanille

250 g
PRICE P89.75
Reg. Price 94.50

PRESTO
Creams Sandwich Cookies Jr.
- Peanut Butter
- Vanilla
- Chocolate

80 g
PRICE P7.00
Reg. Price 7.50

BLUSKIES
Rich & Creamy Crackers
- Plain

25 g/10's
PRICE P15.50
Reg. Price 16.50

Humpy Dumpy
- Buttered Corn, 120 g

Potato Krunch
- Cheese, 85 g

PRICE P23.50

ZEST-O
Juice Drink
- Mango Nectar
- Guyabano Nectar

250 mL.
PRICE P13.00
Reg. Price 14.50

TANG
Powdered Juice Drink
- Pomelo
- Guyabano

500 g
PRICE P33.50
Reg. Price 35.75

PEPSI
In Can
330 mL.
PRICE P10.00
Reg. Price 10.75

SUMMIT
Mineral Drinking Water
500 mL.
PRICE P7.00
Reg. Price 8.50

DENTAL-B
Glow in the Dark Toothbrush Soft
- Junior

PRICE P32.00
Reg. Price 35.75

JOHNSON'S
Baby Bath
- Regular

Refill
200 mL.
PRICE P37.75
Reg. Price 41.75

HENO DE PRAVIA
Whitening Bath Soap
90 g
PRICE P23.75
Reg. Price 26.75

PALMOLIVE
Naturals Shampoo
- Normal

100 mL.
PRICE P35.00
Reg. Price 37.75

BABES
Setting Lotion Gel
- Clear
- Green

500 g
PRICE P38.75
Reg. Price 48.75

CLAIROL
Nice 'n Easy
- All Variants

PRICE P229.75
Reg. Price 250.00

AIRILY
Sanitary Napkin
Natural Touch Daily Use
8's
PRICE P13.75
Reg. Price 17.75

BETADINE
Povidone Iodine
60 mL.
PRICE P76.75
Reg. Price 84.75

DIAMOND
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Refill
30 cm x 8 m
PRICE P49.75
Reg. Price 54.75

COUNTRY AIR
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- Country Berry
- Apple Cinnamon
- Strawberry Delite
- Smoke Eater

99 g
PRICE P89.75
Reg. Price 99.75

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PACKAGE

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- 1 Tiger Lunch Box #100 52159
- School Accessories

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1L
PRICE P139.75
Reg. Price 145.75

RAID
Insect Killer
Germkill Formula
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Reg. Price 144.75

APOLLO
Muriatic Acid
500 mL.
PRICE P28.75
Reg. Price 31.75

COLEMAN
Water Jug
- Blue
- Red
- Green

1.26 Liters
PRICE P189.75

FREE! [illegible]

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Royal Kapok Mattress
137.16 x 190.5 x 12.7 cm (54" x 75" x 5")
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FREE! Mattress [illegible]

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
B1
BUSINESS
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ◼ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Equitable PCI
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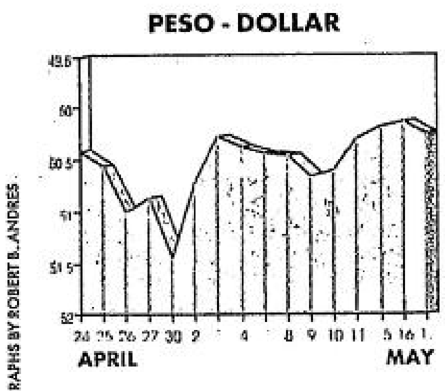
MEMBER PDIC
BancNet

BSP slashes key rates by 50 points

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱50.26 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 17, 2001

¥123.00 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 123.00 as of 5 p.m., May 17, 2001

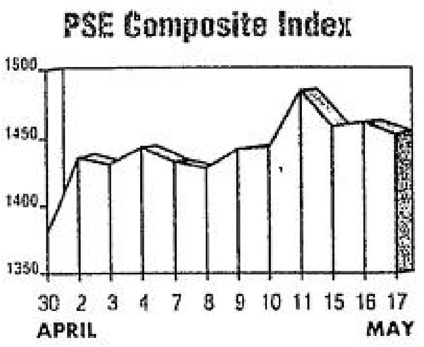
GOLD:$285.90/286.40
per ounce Hong Kong, May 17, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares down

STOCKS bobbed in a tight range for most of the session yesterday, shrugging off the Dow's spectacular jump overnight as concerns over election results weighed on the market.

The 33-share composite index lost 8.76 points, or 0.6 percent, to close at 1,453.03 points after trading in a range of only about 14 points.



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Traders said the market was worried that pro-administration candidates

SHARES/ B4

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday cut its key interest rates by 50 basis points following a similar move by the US Federal Reserve on Wednesday.

The move, which takes effect today, brought down the BSP's borrowing rate to 9 percent and its lending rate to 11.25 percent.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that although the Fed cut gave monetary authorities the flexibility in maneuvering monetary policy, the decision to cut rates was primarily guided by a favorable inflation outlook.

Consumer price inflation stood at 6.7 percent year-on-year in April, flat from the comparative figure in March.

"After a serious discussion, the Monetary Board is convinced that another cut in the BSP's rates would not unduly push inflation to rise further from 6.7 percent last month," Buenaventura said.

The board, he added, also held the view that inflation would taper off by the second half of the year given favorable trends in oil and food prices, two of the main drivers of the consumer price index.

"The presence of spare capacity also reinforced expectations for a downward trend from the second half of the year through the first quarter of 2002," he said.

The BSP began easing rates in December and has now cut rates by 6 percent. It raised the key rates by four percentage points in October amid the country's political crisis which saw the peso plunge.

Buenaventura said the cut in the BSP's rates should push down lending rates as well as the government's borrowing rate, as reflected in the treasury bill rates particularly the 91-day bill.

With the BSP expected to cut its rates, T-bill yields on Tuesday dropped by more than half-a-percentage-point bringing the benchmark 91-day rate back to single-digit levels.

"A decline in bank lending rates is expected to stimulate investments and domestic demand, which should help offset a foreseen decline in export growth this year," Buenaventura said.

Tanduay not for sale, says exec

By DORIS C. DUMLAO

TANDUAY Holdings Inc. yesterday said it was not for sale and that there were no ongoing negotiations for the disposition of its shares to San Miguel Corp. or any other party.

Tanduay Holdings president Wilson T. Young made this statement even as SMC confirmed its interest in acquiring both Tanduay and niche player Consolidated Distillers of the Far East, maker of Emperador Brandy, for its hard liquor subsidiary, La Tondeña Distillers Inc.

"We have not received any offer from San Miguel Corp. and there are no negotiations currently going on for the possible sale of Tanduay Holdings to SMC," Young said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

In an earlier disclosure dated May 4, 2001, Tanduay chief finance officer Nestor Mendiones said, "Tanduay is not being offered for sale and any activity along this line is not being pursued."

"We believe that Tanduay Holdings and Consolidated Distillers of the Far East Inc. are very good companies and if they are available, SMC's subsidiary, LTDI will definitely be interested," SMC SVP and general counsel Francis Jardeleza said.

Tanduay is owned by the group of taipan Lucio Tan while Consolidated Distillers is owned by the family of real estate magnate Andrew Tan.

"There is no factual basis for claims that Tanduay is being sold to San Miguel," Young said in a statement.

" In fact, it can be recalled that it was Mr. Lucio Tan who offered to buy San Miguel—and consequently, La Tondeña—prior to the 1998 elections. It is, however, a public knowledge that the negotiations did not push through. There is therefore no reason why Mr. Tan would now consider selling Tanduay to San Miguel or any other party," Young added.

Young's statement was issued in reaction to an INQUIRER story yesterday that said that San Miguel was offering to buy Tanduay from the Tan group for about P13 billion and P16 billion and that talks between the two groups have started.

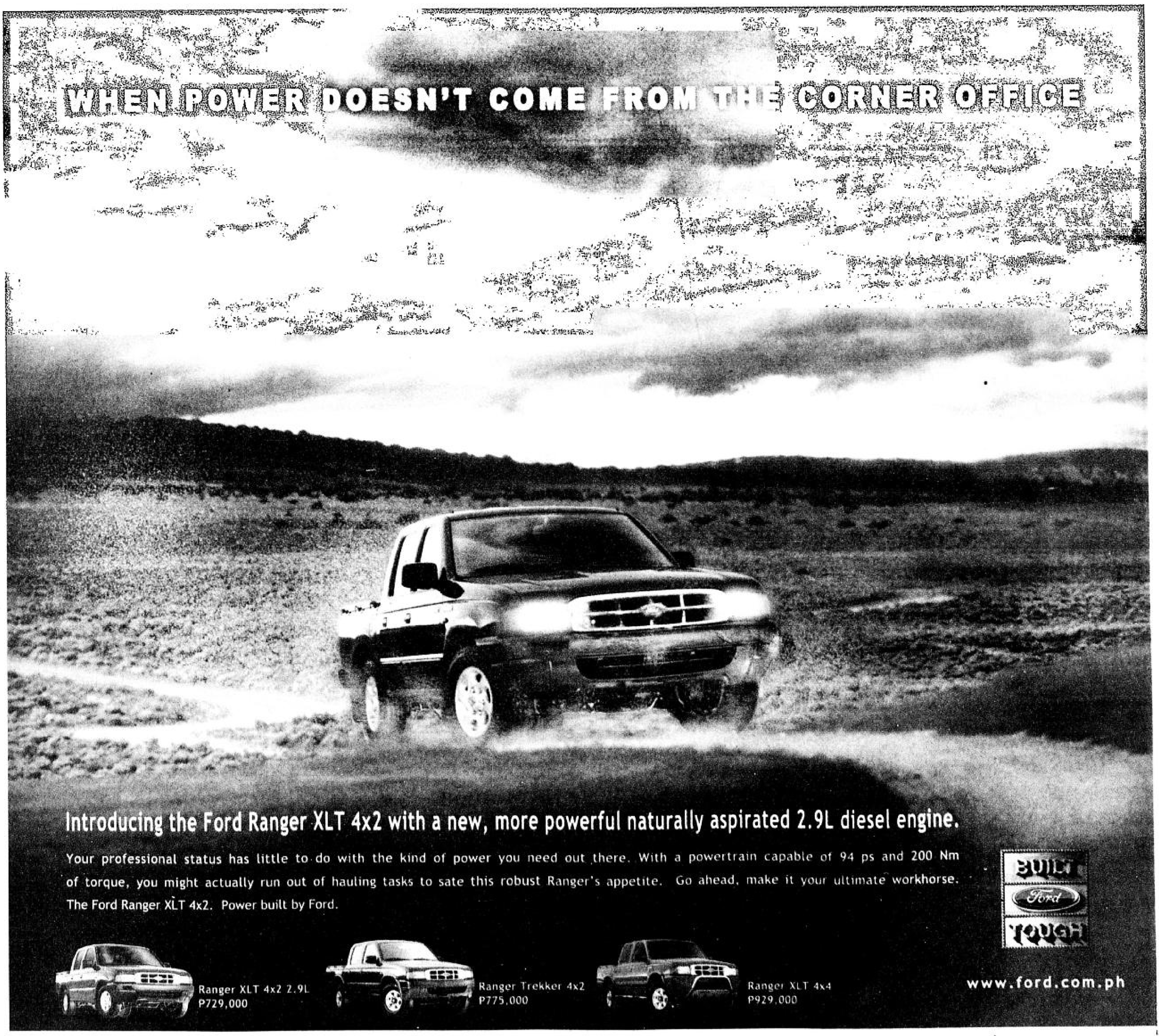
"If they sent feelers during informal talks, we don't know about it. But as of now, our official statement is that there are no negotiations going on," Mendiones said.

Tanduay president and CEO Wilson Young earlier told reporters that the company's shareholders might consider selling out if the price was right.

"If they offer the right price, we would propose to the shareholders and it s up to them to decide. In the global economy, everything is up for sale. I don't know of any offer really but if they would make one, as a manager of the company, I would present it to the shareholders and call for a special meeting'. It would also depend on the motivation of the seller," he said.

INQUIRER sources confirmed that

TANDUAY/ B4



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Fedex to expand RP operations

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SCHEDULE OF CONFERENCE

May 24, 2001
THEME: S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS OF THE INDUSTRY
1:30 pm Roundtable Discussion
1:45 pm Industry Strengths
2:00 pm Industry Weaknesses
2:30 pm Industry Opportunities
2:45 pm Industry Threats /Challenges
3:00 pm Wrap up and Open Forum

SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS

May 24, 2001 (Thursday)
11:00-12:00nn "Integrating Your Business Through the Internet" by: Eastern Telecoms
1:00-2:00pm "TNT Global Logistics Solutions-Storapart" by: TNT International
2:00-3:00pm "Internet Traffic Management Solutions" by: Leverage Systems Technology
3:00-3:30pm "Content Distribution & Delivery Network (Streaming Technology)" by: Infolibria c/o Intex Telecoms Systems
3:00-4:00pm "Critical Power Protection Systems & Solutions" by: MGE-Ups Systems Phils. Inc.
4:00-4:30pm "Building Futures with NetworkPlace" by: Getronics
5:00-5:30pm by: IBM Philippines
5:00-6:00pm "Open Software & Cabling Systems" by: Automation& Security Inc.
6:00-6:30pm "BuyUSA.com" by: U.S. Commercial Service

May 25, 2001 (Friday)
10:00-11:00am Ascendas: "Asia's Foremost Business Space Solutions Provider is Here in the Philippines" by: Acendas (Phils.) Corp/JTC
10:30-11:00am "Internet Traffic Management & Content Delivery Network" by: F5 Networks c/o Intex Telecoms Systems
11:00-12:00nn "Redundant Parallel Architecture Fact or Fiction!" by: Victron
11:30-12:00nn "Intelliwhere" (Geo-Space & Location-Space in Fixed & Wireless Industry: Multi-Dimensional Solutions) by: Intergraph Systems Sout-East Asia Pte.Ltd.(IGSEA)
12:00-1:00pm "Overcoming Barriers of Rural Telephony" by: Q-Telecel
1:00-1:30pm "Fiber Optic & Copper Cable Splice Cases" by: Preformed Line Products
1:00-2:00pm "e-Pay: The Prepaid Solutions" by: E-Pay Asia Philippines
2:00-2:30pm "Lyncole XIT Grounding System" by: Globaltek
2:00-3:00pm "E-conference" by: Solid Video Corporation
3:00-3:30pm "iPlanet" by: Sun Microsystems
3:00-4:00pm "Cabling Solutions for the Future" by: Brand Rex (Microwarehouse)
3:30-4:00pm by: Sun Microsystems
4:00-4:30pm "Deployment of Fiber Infrastructure for Optimum Network" (Flexibility in High Capacity Backbone & Access Networks) by Tyco Electronics Phils., Inc.
4:00-5:00pm "Cost Effective Interactive White Board" by: Board Meeting Inc.
5:00-5:30pm by: IBM Philippines
5:00-6:00pm "The Web Crisis Today" by: On-Line
6:00-6:30am "BuyUSA.com" by: U.S. Commercial Service

May 26, 2001 (Saturday)
10:00-11:00pm "High Availability DC Solutions for your Business Needs" by: American Power Conversion
11:00-12:00nn "What Should I Know About IBOC" (In-Bond on-Channel AM/FM Digital Audio Broadcasting) by: Active Comm
1:00-1:30pm by: Kinetic Solutions
1:00-2:00pm "Communication Solution through Technology" by: DB International
2:00-2:30pm by: Molex Premise Networks
2:00-3:00pm "Work & Play with AV" by: Audio Visual Driver
3:00-3:30pm by: Porta Systems
3:00-4:00pm "Wireless Broadband: Powering the Future of Data Communication" by: Meridian Telecom
4:00-4:30pm by: Wireless Inc.
4:00-5:00pm "Alert Me Now! Your Messaging Companion" by: 25*8
5:00-5:30pm by: IBM Philippines
6:00-6:30pm "BuyUSA.com" by U.S. Commercial Service

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By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr

MEMPHIS-BASED Federal Express Corp., the world's biggest air express delivery service provider, is betting that intra-Asian traffic would grow enough this year to cover for a potential weakness in shipments to the US.

Fedex Philippines country manager Samuel David said Fedex was optimistic that regional shipments within the region would remain robust despite the slowdown in the US economy.

David said that although US shipments accounted for 80 percent of Fedex traffic in the region, intra-Asian trade was growing at a much faster rate even during the Asian economic meltdown. Fedex officials, however, refused to comment on whether the slackening of the US economy has already made a dent on Fedex operations.

Fedex Asia & Pacific managing director Alex C. Yim said that the recent move by Fedex's rival, United Parcel Service, to establish a new transport hub in Clark underscored the region's growth potential as well as the Philippines strategic location.

Yim said: "We see UPS' move as a compliment because we have decided to set up operations in Subic as early as six years ago." From an initial two aircraft, Fedex's AsiaOne hub currently has 10 wide-bodied jets and it has a contract to operate at the former American naval base up to 2007. The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority said Fedex has sent feelers to extend its contract up to 2013.

The SBMA and FedEx forked out P80 million each to extend the runway to 2.8 kilometers, modernize the central and touchdown lighting, and upgrade the tower.

AsiaOne serves as the operating base of the courier's operations in the region especially for its next business day deliveries in key cities in Asia, Europe and US.

Fedex chose the Philippines because of its bilateral relations with the US which gave FedEx more liberal access to fly its planes; Subic Bay's strategic location in Asia; the naval base required minimal investments because of its existing facilities left by the American forces; and it has a vast pool of skilled, English-speaking workforce.

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED to the board of **Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.** were Anselmo Trinidad Jr., Antonio Ong, Roberto Macasaet Jr., Raul Leopando, David Go, Carlos Syquia, Francisco Luz, Roberto Benares and Roberto San Jose.

* * *

F&J Prince Holdings Corp. said it would issue detachable subscription warrants representing 58.4 million of class A shares and 37.8 million of class B shares in connection with its pre-emptive rights stock offering of 96.2 million common shares

* * *

PHILEX Mining Corp. announced the resignation of Leopoldo Veroy as director of the company. Elected to replace him was Horacio Templo.

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp. declared a 10-percent stock dividend in favor of stockholders of record as of June 1 and payable on July 6.

* * *

ABS-CBN Holdings Corp. declared cash dividends of P0.5924 per Philippine Deposit Receipts in favor of stockholders as of April 25. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, May 17, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	78.5	79	78.5	79	611,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	45	45	44.5	44.5	173,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	213	214	210	214	84,100
Prudential Bank	475	475	475	475	300
Philippine National Bank	50.5	50.5	49.5	50	74,700
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	29.5	28.5	29.5	900
Rizal Comm'l Bkg Corp A	26	26	26	26	100
Security Bank Corp.	20.25	20.5	20	20.5	18,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	53,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	247	247	247	247	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1300	1305	1300	1305	8,820
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1055	1060	1055	1060	5,580
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	41	41.5	41	41.5	5,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.44	1,410,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	690	690	690	6,700
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	1,200,000
Piltel	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	720	720	705	710	41,170
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.046	0.047	0.045	0.046	160,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	42.5	43	42	42	46,800
Manila Electric Co. B	58	58	56.5	56.5	125,800
Petron Corp.	1.82	1.84	1.8	1.84	5,867,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	4,663,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	135,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.15	3.25	3.15	3.15	1,025,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.25	19,700
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	28	28	27.5	28	41,200
Rfm Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	300,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47.5	47.5	46.5	46.5	55,600
San Miguel Corp. B	50	50.5	49.5	50	414,100
Universal Robina Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	8,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	250,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.74	0.74	0.73	0.73	60,000
Ayala Corp.	7.6	7.7	7.5	7.6	2,665,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	308,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.5	12.75	12.25	12.25	4,200
Alcorn Gold Res: Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.38	1.38	9,453,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	180,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.12	1.14	1,155,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24	23.75	23.75	69,400
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Ionics Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.25	11.25	47,800
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.14	2.16	2.06	2.08	402,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	18,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	900,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	1,550,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	300,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	290,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	3,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	250,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.6	0.67	0.6	0.67	40,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	400,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	40,000
Music Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	188,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	40,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	120,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.5	0.5	1,180,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	400,000
BONDS PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	41	42	41	41.5	1,187,300
Equitable Pci Bank-War	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	8,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	695	695	695	695	5,800
Jollibee Warrants	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	500
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Omico Corporation Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	5,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	-	-	-	-	-
Philweb.Com Inc -Warrants	0.038	0.039	0.036	0.038	77,400,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	4,000
Far Eastern University	370	370	370	370	10
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	2,595,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.3	0.3	2,750,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	2,790,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.24	2.3	2.22	2.24	8,347,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	400,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.6	6,762,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	400,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	120,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	2,500,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	500,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	7,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	20,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	3,680,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	500,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	35,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	6,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	22,500,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	30,000

CURRENCIES

May 17, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.131478	1.000000	50.1360
Japan	Yen	0.009159	0.008095	0.4059
United Kingdom	Pound	1.618692	1.430600	71.7246
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145064	0.128208	6.4278
Switzerland	Franc	0.652675	0.576834	28.9201
Canada	Dollar	0.509768	0.450533	22.5879
Singapore	Dollar	0.624435	0.551876	27.6689
Australia	Dollar	0.589741	0.521213	26.1315
Bahrain	Dinar	3.001427	2.652661	132.9938
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.301711	0.266652	13.3689
Brunei	Dollar	0.620498	0.548396	27.4944
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000100	0.000088	0.0044
Thailand	Baht	0.024972	0.022070	1.1065
UAE	Dirham	0.308095	0.272294	13.6517
Korea	Won	0.000866	0.000765	0.0384
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.883800	44.3102
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.45188	22.6555
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134734	6.7550
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.401051	20.1071
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064228	3.2201
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.021909	1.0984
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000456	0.0229
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.148644	7.4524
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004408	0.2210
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005312	0.2663
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.021909	1.0984
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.122195	56.2624

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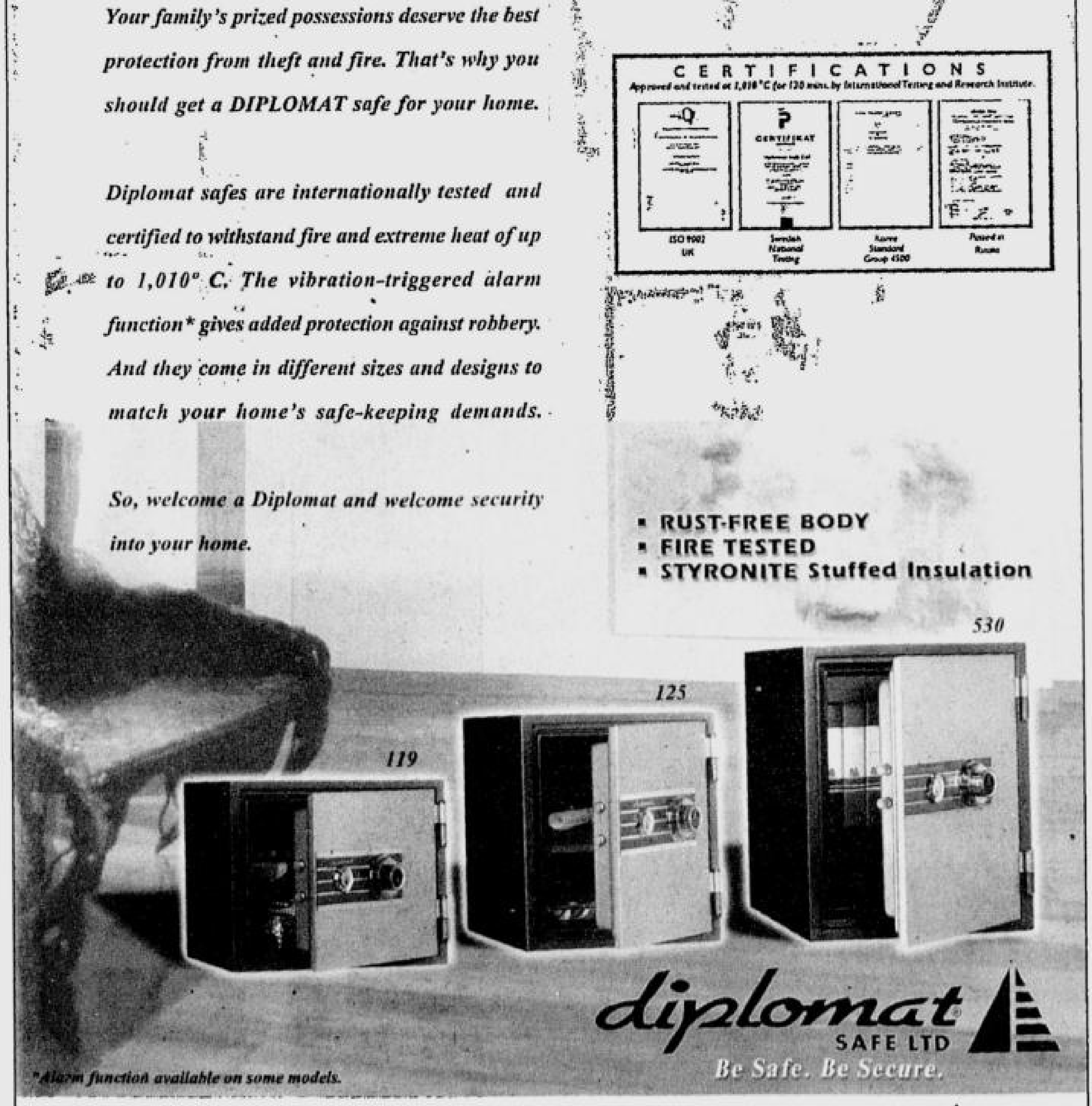
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All Asia crisis

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

SHAREHOLDERS of ailing All Asia Capital have voted to hire a lesser known and smaller colleague, Investment and Capital Corporation of the Philippines, to draft a rehabilitation plan for the prostrate investment house.

According to the grapevine, ICCP is also being asked to collect, on a percentage-fee basis, the multibillion-peso non-performing loans extended by All Asia to debtors and even related parties.

All Asia held its annual stockholders' meeting Wednesday in its landmark Paseo de Roxas building without any clear indication whether its choice of president, former Finance Undersecretary Joel Bañares, would accept the invitation.

Even if he would want to, Bañares apparently could not immediately accept the appointment because of the one-year prohibition period preventing government officials from working within a year after leaving their public appointments for companies that their offices supervised.

Bañares, if we remember correctly, resigned from the DOF only shortly before Estrada was overthrown from Malacañang.

Incidentally, one of All Asia's key directors and debtors, Antonio M. Garcia of Profinda Holdings and Reynolds Philippines, is himself being besieged by domestic aggravations, the least of which was his losing his Alabang Country Club share in favor of his estranged younger brother, Ramon.

Ramon is also claiming the Manila Polo Club share being used by Antonio but decided not to pursue the case against his *kuya*, who is serving his last term as Polo Club president, until after Antonio's term expires.

Landmark's Berlin Wall

IF you are wondering when would Landmark finally open its Makati Avenue side to the overhead pedestrian walkway and make life easier for thousands of Legaspi Village office workers and mall rats, the answer is, maybe never.

Landmark owner Enrique Cheng decided at the last minute not to open the steel-door he had installed on that side because, according to the grapevine, he was worried about the likelihood of increased pilferage and shoplifting cases once he opens the second-floor walkway.

In addition, Cheng apparently did not want to hire another set of security guards to man the proposed entrance.

Because of the standoff, landlord Ayala Land has decided to plan another, although roundabout, extension to connect Landmark with Glorietta.

Instead of cutting through the second floor, a wrap-around walkway passing by the open parking space side of Landmark, the carpark between Landmark and Shangri-La Hotel, will be constructed.

Once finished by late next year, the elevated walkway would enable pedestrians to walk from SM Shoemart from Epifanio de los Santos Avenue all the way to Makati Medical Center in Buendia protected from the rains and the elements.

Starry prospects

STARS, whose ongoing makeover hopefully would transcend into a financial fresh start when it reopens later this year, has taken in Peter Jentes of the German restaurant Schwarzwalder as partner.

Jentes' steady hand at the Greenbelt restaurant would hopefully rub off on what up until recently has been an ill-starred venture.

To save on overhead expenses, Stars had been forced to jettison its industrial partner, an award-winning American chef import, and rely on local talents instead.

Guerra a la Manguerra

THE 90-YEAR-OLD matriarch of the Cuenco-Manguerra clan of Cebu, Doña Concepcion Cuenco-Manguerra, is suing her only daughter-in-law, Teresita Escano-Manguerra, for allegedly falsifying her signature that effectively waived Doña Concepcion's inheritance and conjugal share from the intestate estate of her late husband.

The estate covers choice properties in Cebu and Malate.

The daughter-in-law is also now a widow as Doña Concepcion's only son, Mariano Jesus Manguerra Jr. having died in 1993.

Doña Concepcion currently lives in San Lorenzo Village in Makati while the daughter-in-law and children all reside in Cebu City.

Heard through the grapevine

THE HISTORICAL feud between the Alcantaras and the Jacintos has erupted anew after former Trade Undersecretary Tomas Alcantara, who is supposed to be *chika-chika* with GMA, went onstage with the Erap candidates during the *miting de avance*, a rare public display of disaffection by Tommy against GMA candidate and ex-GMA brother-in-law Ramon "RJ" Jacinto.

RJ himself has been sniping at the "onerous" power cost in Iligan, made so by the multimillion-dollars in government-guaranteed "stranded costs" being passed on to the local residents by the non-operation of the Alcantara power plant in the province.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Study shows RP investors overtaxed

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A DRAFT International Monetary Fund study showed that investors in the Philippines have been paying three times more taxes than what their peers are levied in Thailand, which is one of the reasons why the country is lagging behind its neighbors in attracting foreign investments.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the draft IMF study showed that investors pay an average of 21 percent in taxes after deducting all fiscal incentives compared to the 7-percent tax average in Thailand. Roxas was quoting from one of several IMF studies in the pipeline.

Roxas admitted that a heavier tax burden was a major concern to investors and puts the country at a disadvantage in promoting investments in the country.

This was the reason why the government is pushing for amendments in the Omnibus Investments Code to beef up the incentive package of the Board of Investments to include a 12-year income tax holiday, net operating loss carryover and accelerated depreciation.

However, Roxas said the Philippines was not prepared to match or surpass what Thailand and other Asean countries were offering in terms of fiscal incentives to attract investors.

Roxas said this was a " slippery slope" to take if the Philippines would engage in one upmanship with other Asean countries such as offering a long income tax holiday. "Before we know it, no new taxes will ever be paid by anybody," Roxas said. He said the government was also taking into consideration the widening budget deficit before boosting the incentive package.

Instead of more incentives, Roxas said the government was moving to lower the cost of doing business in the Philippines to offset whatever tax advantages other countries have over the Philippines.

This includes the lack or poor state of infrastructure, high cost of power, bureaucracy, legal disputes and financing.

Tip #13. Update Excel External Data At Timed Intervals

To ensure you're working with the most current worksheet data retrieved from an external source, e.g. database or web:

- **Select cell** in the worksheet area with the external data
- **Data | Get External Data | Data Range Properties | Refresh Every* | OK**

*Default: Every 60 minutes, but variable between every 1– 32,767 minutes

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UNIONBANK
OF THE PHILIPPINES
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

May 15, 2001

TO All Stockholders:

Please be advised that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of UnionBank of the Phillippines will be held at the Garcia, Balagtas and Balmori Rooms, of The Peninsula Manila, Makati Avenue, Makati City on Friday, June 1, 2001, at 4:00 p.m.

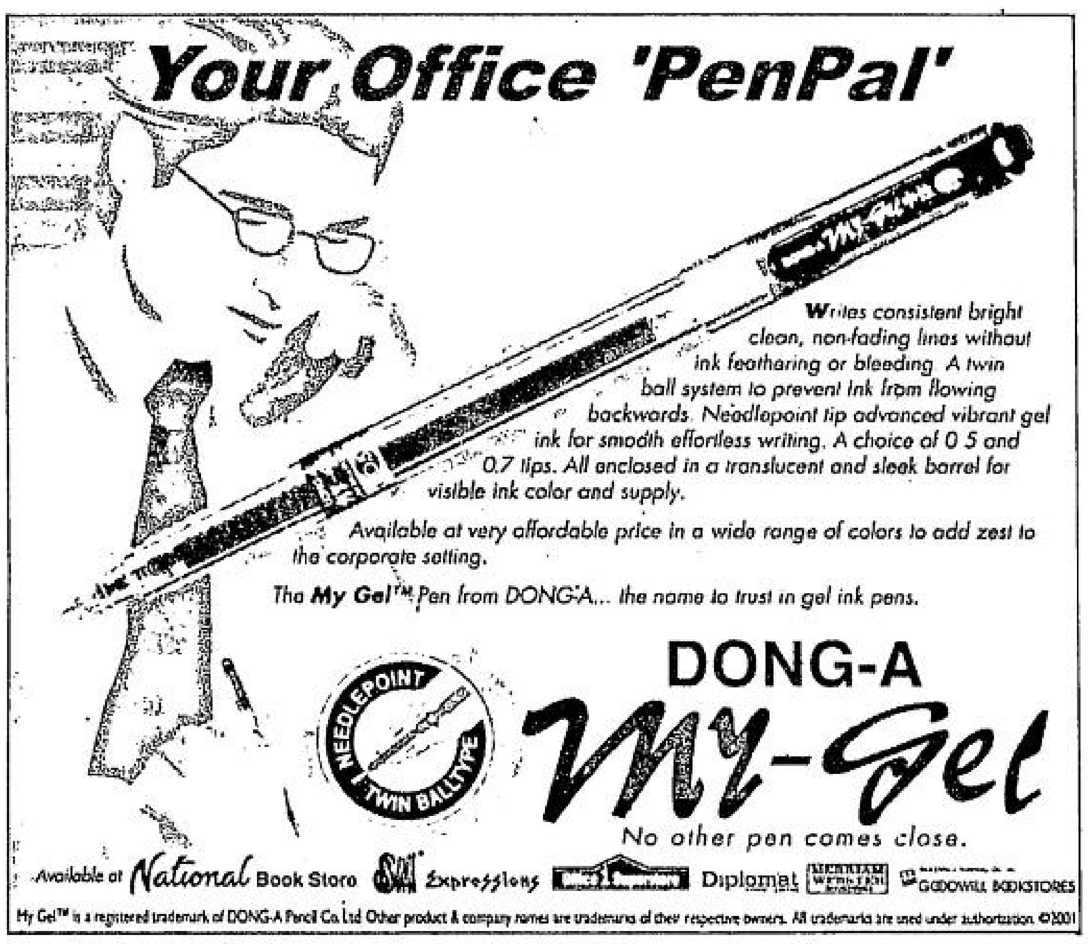
The Agenda for the said meeting will be as follows:
I. Calling the Roll
II. Proof of Notice of Meeting
III. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 31, 2000
IV. Annual Report of Management on Operations for 2000
V. Appointment of External Auditor
VI. Election of Directors for 2001-2002 term
VII. Adjournment

Only stockholders of record as of April 6, 2001 will be entitled to attend and participate at the above meeting.

Registration starts at 2:30 p.m. In the event you are unable to attend and in order to assure the presence of a quorum at the annual meeting, please accomplish the attached Proxy Form sent to you and return it to the undersigned at UnionBank of the Philippines, 5th Floor, SSS (Makati) Building, Ayala Corner Herrera Street, Makati City, not later than May 25, 2001 for the validation of Proxies entitled to vote. The giving of the proxy will not affect your right to vote in the event you personally attend the meeting.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ATTY. FE T. BECINA-MACALINO
Corporate Secretary



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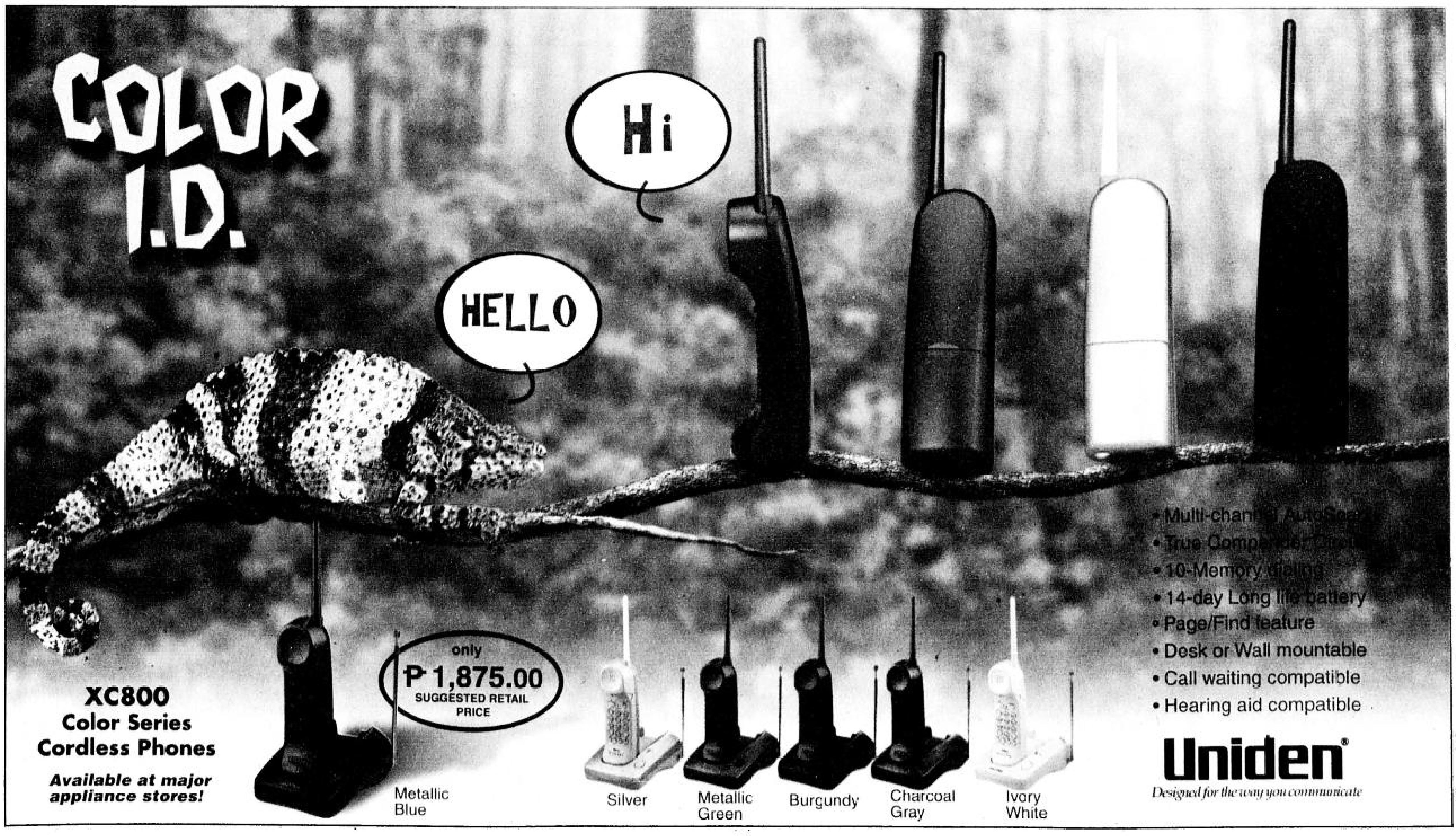

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S&P, Moody's defer review of RP rating

By Clarissa S. Batino

INTERNATIONAL credit rating agencies Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Services have ruled out an upgrade in the country's sovereign ratings until the third quarter this year.

The most the country could expect, according to Department of Finance officials, is a revision in their negative outlook for the Philippines to stable late this year.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, who earlier spoke with officials of Moody's and Standard & Poor's, said both rating firms have decided to put on hold any review of its ratings for the Philippines until after the promised reforms, including the power reform bill, were put in place.

The deferment of the two New York-based firms' rating reviews could spell trouble for the financial market that is anticipating a "re-rating" for the Philippines, said an analyst.

Romulo expects that one of the two rating agencies or both may conduct a review by October, a year after they downgraded the country's rating following the breakout of the "Juetengate" scandal that involved former President Joseph Estrada.

"They would likely do it after October but it could be earlier. They told us they wanted to see the results of the elections first, a longer trend on the government's performance in containing the deficit, and the legislation of key reform programs," said Romulo.

For now, both agencies have retained indefinitely a negative outlook for the Philippines. Standard & Poor's had conducted a thorough review of the economy last month but had decided to put on hold any decision, said Romulo.

A team from S&P arrived in early April to assess the economic and political environment in the country in the first two months of the Macapagal administration.

The team was tasked to determine whether existing conditions in the Philippines warranted an upgrade in the S&P outlook from negative to stable. Standard & Poor's was the first to give the country a negative outlook rating at the height of the "Juetengate" scandal.

Moody's followed suit a week later while IBCA Fitch had placed the country on its negative watch. The European credit rating firm IBCA Fitch, however, had lifted its negative watch last March.

ING Barings, in its latest country study, said a convincing victory of the administration candidates in the recent elections was deemed crucial by the international markets that needed to be assured that the Macapagal administration would achieve economic gains.

"It is still a waiting game but unlike the previous times when the market was awaiting positive developments, investors are now waiting for a re-rating," said the ING Barings study.

ING Barings had specified five critical factors deemed "necessary before a re-rating can take place."

Aside from the administration's victory in the last elections , ING Barings wants to see the threat posed by the supporters of former President Estrada to the administration removed; a continuity in reforms; budget deficits falling within targets, and the recovery of the US and Japan's economies.

Foreign markets are counting on the enactment of the power reform bill that would be seen as a serious gesture of the administration in pursuing reforms.

ING Barings said the fiscal performance had been, so far, satisfactory since the deficit had been below the target for the first quarter, hitting only P37.9 billion versus a target of P48.55 billion.

Labor's post election agenda

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

NOW that the elections are over, it's time to work. The promises have been made and believed in. It's time to fulfill them. The ballots have been cast and counted. The winners will soon be proclaimed. It's time for the new officials to get down to business. There should be no procrastination or delaying. There should be no hesitancy or equivocation. Those who were given the mandate should start rolling their sleeves and commence the great labor.

Whether proclaimed or not, the sure winners should now start finalizing their plans of action, translate them into workable work timetables, organize their staff and get going. In the area of labor legislation and labor administration, the time has come to lay down in greater details the legislative agenda on labor for senators and congressmen as well as the executive platforms on labor for local government officials.

For jobs and justice

The Senate and the House of Representatives should formulate a long-term, medium-term and short-term employment agenda. They should plan well how to generate jobs for the 5 million unemployed Filipinos, not to mention the 500,000 annual entrants into the labor force, as well as help the other 5 million underemployed. They should review the government policy on OFWs, they should assess the overall cost and benefits of abetting brain drain. They should also think outside the box and focus on how to generate employment locally.

For living wage

Congress should study the dynamics between wage formulation and protection of job security. It should create a strategy for correlating wage hikes and productivity. It should shape wage structures that create values for both workers and employers, focusing on variable compensations rather than fixed costs. There should be balance between wage levels and cost of living, a mechanism to temper inflationary effects of ill-considered wage hikes. The workers should be afforded non-wage benefits that can help address basic needs. There should be adequate and viable safety nets to cushion the impact of job insecurity especially to the casuals, contractual workers and intermittent workers in the informal sectors.

Destroy and rebuild the GSIS, SSS

The billions of pesos entrusted to the GSIS and SSS by millions of workers and thousands of employers have been allegedly diverted to hundreds of irrelevant ventures including investments in Urban Bank, the PCI Equitable merger, Waterfront and Miss Saigon. These should be stopped. The only way to do it is for Congress to plug the loopholes in the system that allowed these agencies' administrators to play games with the trust funds. Then, rebuild the GSIS and SSS or merge them, if not abolish these two white elephants, and privatize the state insurance system.

Speed up labor justice

The three leading causes of disillusionment among labor litigants are: delays in dispute resolution; the high cost of labor justice, and corruption, that is rampant and seemingly incurable. There is no discernible solution to all these ills, except to totally overhaul the labor dispute settlement systems. Focus on voluntary arbitration, conciliation and mediation rather than compulsory arbitration.

Jail the corrupt, reform the inept

The newly elected senators and congressmen should create a joint legislative commission to audit the performance of all government offices in charge of labor administration and labor adjudication. The audit should spare no one and should be total and developmental. It should include an investigation, in aid of legislation, of the possible sources of corruption and causes of inefficiencies.

If there are officials and staff who are found to have violated the law, they should be investigated, prosecuted and if guilty, jailed. The inept should be trained and developed. If they refuse to learn, they should be dismissed or retired, whichever is just or compassionate.

LGU's labor agenda

The provincial governors and mayors should incorporate into their plans a labor agenda, aimed at employment generation, workers' welfare and industrial peace. They should initiate the convening of local tripartite summits, together with labor and business, to address issues concerning jobs, wages, incomes, welfare and the promotion of harmony and productivity in the workplaces.

Every provincial board and municipal council has sectoral representatives for labor and business. Therefore, local legislation can tackle such issues and the LGUs can address local concerns with a sense of urgency and local autonomy.

Workers' education

One intervention that can create multiplier effects is on the education of the workers, as well as the employers. The LGUs, in cooperation with business leaders and labor union officials in a locality, can jointly sponsor workers' education and information dissemination programs on vital issues.

The workers' education can include value formation, mentoring on skills and counseling on positive work attitude and habits. The employers and their managers and supervisors can also learn how to handle grievances, settle conflicts, build teams and administer employee discipline.

Skills building

What is the Tesda doing with its P2-billion annual budget? Congress should inquire into this before approving next year's appropriation bill. LGUs should actively participate in efforts to enhance the technical capability of their constituencies.

Local officials should stop "giving fish" and start "teaching people how to fish" so as to eradicate the culture of mendicancy and to empower them with a sense of pride as productive components of a possessive society.

The elections are over and there are simply too much work to be done. Let us stop talking and start doing honest work.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez @pcppi.com.ph)

Tanduay . . .

(From page B1)

highly confidential talks were ongoing and that Tanduay has set an asking price although no firm deal was in sight.

Meanwhile, sources from the group of Andrew Tan confirmed that talks were ongoing with San Miguel for the possible sale of Emperador Brandy.

San Miguel was eyeing Tanduay and Emperador Brandy to beef up the product lines of LTDI which presently sells Ginebra and Añejo Rhum.

Shares down

(From page B1)

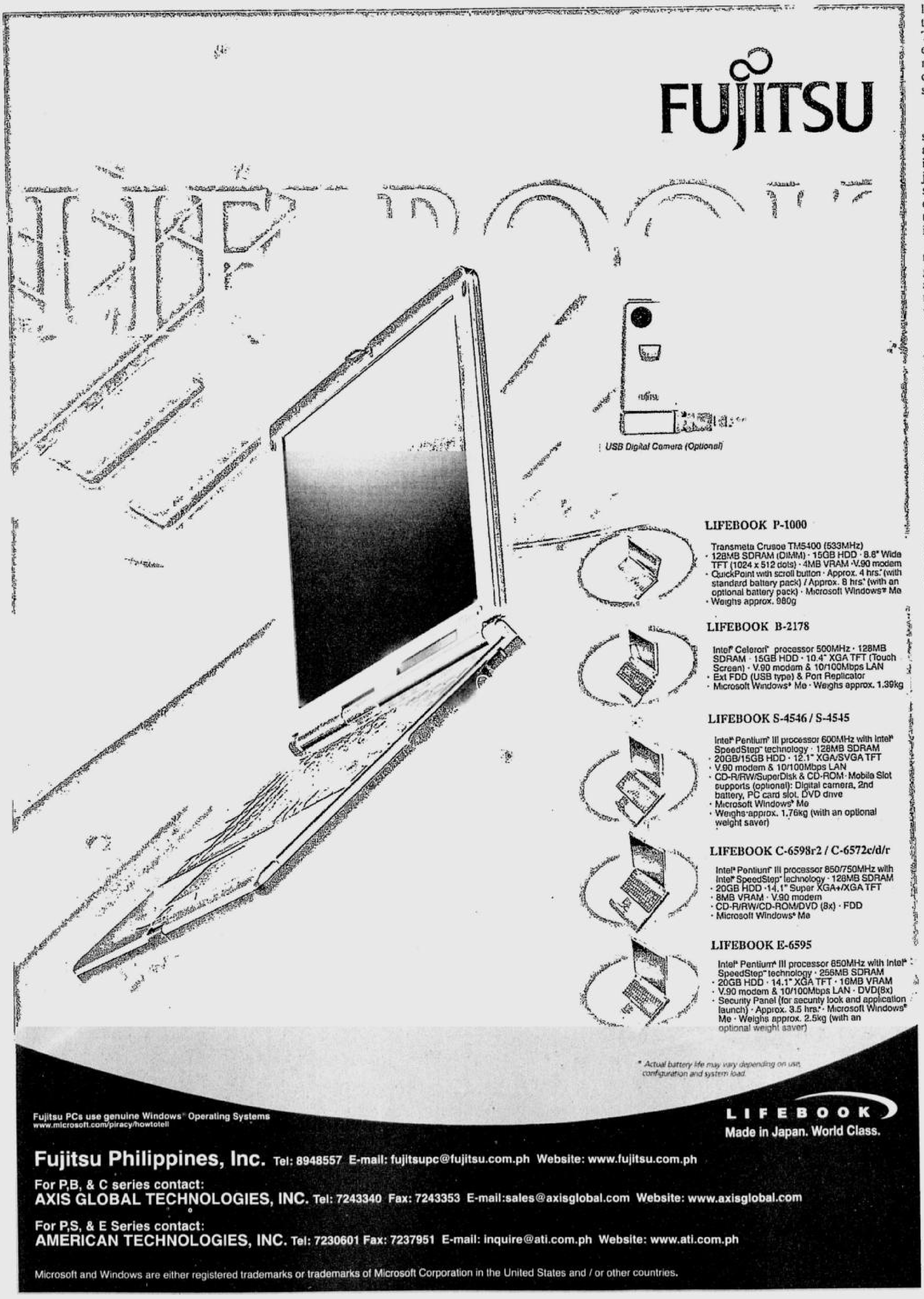
might not get a majority of the 13 seats up for grabs in 24-member powerful upper house of Congress.

Market players want to see pro-administration candidates get at least eight seats so that President Macapagal-Arroyo's reform programs will have enough support in Congress.

The Philippine stock market has lost 2.77 percent so far this year but it is still performing better than markets in Jakarta, Hong Kong, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

Turnover climbed to P374.94 million from the previous P311.03 million. Although the main index fell, there were more gainers than losers, 32 to 23, with 43 issues unchanged.

Reuters



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Ecop bats for reforms to cut cost of business

EMPLOYERS are pushing for the adoption of sweeping reforms by the Macapagal administration towards creating a healthier environment for business and investments to grow and jumpstart a sputtering economy.

The proposed measures are contained in an eight-point resolution that the Employers Confederation of the Philippines has presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The resolutions were distilled from suggestions made by participants in the 22nd National Conference of Employers (NCE XXII) held at the New World Renaissance Hotel.

Ecop asserted the need to reduce the cost of doing business by:

- Reducing the cost of power, which is the highest in the Asean region, through competition-based power restructuring and renegotiation for more reasonable power pricing with independent power producers;
- Reducing the cost of telecommunication, which is the backbone of the new Internet-based economy, through a competition-oriented regulatory regime in the telecommunications industry;
- Putting a halt to the imposition of new taxes and compulsory deductions, both at the national and local levels, and giving priority instead to better collection of taxes;
- Improving the management of traffic, which stalls the productivity of both employees and managers;
- Fast-tracking development of ports, roads and bridges needed for business expansion;
- Ensuring access to credit facilities of all qualified borrowers;
- Lowering the cost of borrowing through appropriate monetary and fiscal measures, and,
- Reducing the high cost of bureaucratic red tape.

Solid sets ₱600-M expansion

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

CONSUMER electronics manufacturer Solid Group Inc. has earmarked some P600 million this year for the expansion of its cable and Internet businesses under the Destiny group of companies.

Solid Group chief operating officer Enrique Ligeralde recently told investors that these fresh funds would be used for the acquisition and installation of cable systems and infrastructure for Internet access and data services.

"As a small player in the industry, Solid Group's strategy is not to compete directly with market giants such as Sky Vision Corp. and Home Cable but to make available their 100-percent fiber-optic network in the last mile to the consumer to any interested parties," ATR Kim Eng securities head of research Luz Lorenzo said.

Solid Group recently completed its acquisition of the Destiny group, which is likewise owned by the family of businesswoman Elena Lim, consisting of Destiny Cable Inc., a broadband cable TV firm, and Destiny Inc. and its subsidiaries, which own the network infrastructure for Destiny Cable.

As part of the takeover plan, 1.05 billion of new Solid Group shares will be issued for the book value of the Destiny group amounting to P2.1 billion, of which P376 million will be exchanged for convertible bonds of AV Value Sales Corp., a special purpose vehicle that will hold all the shares of DCI. This stake will be converted by Solid Group into shares when the legislative bill allowing foreigners to invest in cable TV companies becomes law.

Solid Group is expecting the Securities and Exchange Commission to approve the issuance of convertible bonds of AV Value Sales this month.

During the first quarter, DCI's subscribers numbered 50,000 and have been increasing by an average of 3,000 a month. Solid Group claims that its Destiny network has the capacity to service 500,000 homes.

Solid Group, Ligeralde said, hopes to limit losses from the operations of its Destiny group to P30 million this year and to break even by 2002.

ATR Kim Eng's Lorenzo, however, said prospects for Solid Group remained uncertain "given the dim prospects for the consumer electronics side of the business and with the new multimedia operations still in its early stages."

"Although the current share price is far below book value, there is continuing uncertainty about the losses that may be incurred in its bread-and-butter operations because of lower import tariffs and the indefinite suspension of activity at its export subsidiary. At the same time, the Destiny group is up against tough competition while continuing to spend for the build-out of its cable network. Eventually, Solid Group may succeed in this new venture but even by their own estimates, it is not going to be this year," she explained.

Solid Group's net income doubled to P117 million in 2000 from the previous year, but it incurred P12 million in losses in the first quarter amid the slowdown in the demand for consumer electronics.

Solid Group, however, remains laden with cash. A few years ago, it raised P2.6 billion to P2.7 billion from an initial public offering and has kept proceeds from the offering intact since then.

Vitarich sets aside ₱90-M capex for 2001

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

VITARICH Corp., the country's third largest poultry integrator and animal feeds manufacturer, said yesterday it had set aside P90 million in capital expenditures for the year.

Vitarich president Armando Escobar said the company had earmarked over P60 million to expand its aquafeeds business.

"We currently hold the top spot in the sales of aquafeeds. and we would be able to strengthen our position by expanding the capacity of our aquafeeds plant," Escobar said in an interview.

He said Vitarich would augment the capacity of its aquafeeds plant from 5 metric tons per hour to 9 metric tons.

Vitarich has three major subsidiaries: Breeder Master Inc., Gromax Inc. and Philippines Favorite Chicken Inc.

The company has set a combined sales target for these three firms at P5.5 billion this year.

Escobar said earnings should pick up as demand for dressed chicken, one-day old chicks, poultry and hogs grows in the third quarter of the year.

Vitarich said earlier its pre-tax earnings plunged 139 percent last year to P72 million from 1999's comparative figure.

The company said its earnings took a dive because of the peso's sharp depreciation against the US dollar.

Vitarich imports most of its raw materials and broilers. Its expenses soared when the peso fell last year from 39 to as low as 56 to a dollar due to political and economic uncertainties that hounded the Estrada administration and a general weakness of Asian currencies.

Islaphone subscribers get text services

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

SUBSCRIBERS of Islaphone, the landline service of Globe Telecom Inc.'s subsidiary, Isla Communications Inc., will be able to enjoy landline text messaging services starting today.

This service, tagged "1-900-TXT," the first of its kind in the country, was initially made available to Globelines subscribers in February when it was first launched. Text messaging, a service then confined to mobile phones, extended to landlines.

Islaphone subscribers can now avail of all the services Globelines subscribers enjoy, including Globe's edge over the competition: two-way text transmissions that allow Globe Handyphone users to reply to their landline counterparts.

Text messages from mobile phones are converted to audio messages that can be retrieved by dialing the access number "1-900-898," or "1-900-TXT," and then following simple voice prompts. These messages can also be stored in the subscribers' landline phones.

Islaphone subscribers who have NDD (national direct dialing)-activation, on the other hand, can send text messages to Globe Handyphone users for P1.50 a message without having to ask an operator to activate the service. Information such as quotes, text jokes, and horoscopes can also be accessed for P2 a message.

Aboitiz Equity declares P0.04 cash dividend

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures, the publicly listed company of the Aboitiz Group, has announced that its board has approved a cash dividend of 4 centavos a share, 100 percent more than the previous year's.

The announcement was made by AEV president and chief executive Jon Ramon Aboitiz during the company's annual stockholders' briefing at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Aboitiz said with strong cash flows generated by the company's power and food businesses, AEV expected to declare cash dividends on a regular basis. The cash dividend is payable on June 15 this year per shareholders on record as of May 31,2001.

Despite a difficult year for Philippine business, AEV last year fared better than most companies, posting a net income after tax attributable to common shareholders of P1.125 billion, 7.5 percent lower than what it earned in 1999.

On a consolidated basis, its earnings before income tax, depreciation and amortization jumped 28 percent in 2000.

"From P894 million in 1997, Ebitda increased every year, reaching P2.33 billion in 2000, a compound annual growth of 38 percent in the last three years following the financial crisis," Aboitiz said.

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen. - TESCP

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY
O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.)

Rich nations try to pave way for new round of WTO talks

PARIS—Ministers from industrialized nations sought ways on Wednesday to avoid another Seattle-style flop at a key world trade meeting later this year, which had already been preceded by new transatlantic tensions.

The ministers from the "rich club" of OECD countries are trying to iron out their differences ahead of the next meeting of the World Trade Organization's 140 member nations in the Gulf state of Qatar in November.

European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said he did not expect tensions between the European Union and the United States to overshadow the wider push to launch a new WTO round of trade talks in Doha, the Qatari capital.

Earlier this week, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said the European Union's threat to impose $4 billion worth of sanctions on US goods in a row over an export tax break program would be like "using a nuclear bomb" on the global trading system.

But Lamy, speaking at a meeting of trade ministers at the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, asked: "Do these bilateral trade frictions impact on the climate? I don't think so."

He said Washington had created "some momentum" ahead of the Doha meeting and there were positive signals from other governments.

"This does not mean that we would have today an agreement on the agenda of the round," Lamy said during a break in the talks.

At the end of the first of two days of meetings, the OECD called for a new round of WTO talks. "We renew our commitment to the strengthening of the multilateral trading system and our rejection of protectionist pressures," it said in a statement.

"Time is relatively short. The dialogue has been going for some time and they need to get more precise," Francois Huwart, foreign trade minister, told reporters.

WTO Secretary General Mike Moore, also speaking in Paris, urged governments to work harder to ensure the Doha meeting would not flop like the previous meeting in Seattle in December 1999.

That meeting, which was marked by violent clashes between police and anti-globalization demonstrators, failed to agree on issues like agricultural subsidies and minimum labor standards.

"I think we're in a much stronger position than we were 12 months ago, or even three months ago," Moore told reporters.

"If, however, we have the same agenda with the same width, depth and intensity that we had pre-Seattle, we'll have the same result as Seattle."

He said progress in November was vital amid "danger signs" of a slowdown for the world economy and improving access for goods from developing countries would also help relieve poverty.

"It is just unacceptable that one in five people on this planet live on less than $1 a day and half our citizens live on less than $2 a day," he said in a speech at the OECD meeting.

Poor countries have long complained that despite increasing free trade, their exports of goods like farm produce, textiles and clothing remain impeded by high tariffs.

The minister for industry and commerce of the African nation Mali, Alimata Toure, said poor countries were mistrustful of how free trade would benefit them, fearing they could not begin to compete until their crumbling infrastructure was modernized.

"We need concrete measures to create confidence among developing countries," she said. *Reuters*

US April inflation milder than expected

WASHINGTON—US consumer prices rose more moderately than expected in April, helping to give the Federal Reserve some leeway in its aggressive interest-rate cutting campaign.

The Labor Department said Wednesday that the consumer price index, the main US inflation gauge, rose 0.3 percent last month after a 0.1-percent gain in March.

The closely watched core CPI, which strips out food and energy costs, rose 0.2 percent in April following a matching increase in the prior month.

"I think inflation is still on the back burner for the Fed," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist with Wells Fargo Bank. "I think the inflation pressure is minimal at this point, especially if you take out energy costs."

US economists in a Reuters survey had expected the overall CPI to climb 0.4 percent and the core rate to rise 0.2 percent.

The inflation reading gives the US central bank one less thing to worry about after a spree of rate reductions that has taken overnight lending rates down 2-1/2 percentage points since the beginning of this year.

"Certainly there has been a large fear in the bond market of inflation heating up. So this certainly calmed the markets down quite a bit," said Mary Ann Hurley, vice president of fixed income trading at DA Davidson & Co. in Seattle.

Aiming to head off a recession in the struggling US economy, the Fed on Tuesday cut rates for the fifth time in as many months and signaled that it stood ready to ease borrowing costs again should the economy show signs of further weakening.

Despite gloomy news about the economy lately, at least one key sector, housing, continues to do well.

A report from the Commerce Department, also released on Wednesday, showed that ground-breaking for new single family homes, town homes and apartments rose 1.5 percent to a seasonally adjusted rate of 1.609 million units after posting a drop of 2.3 percent in March, when the revised estimate was 1.586 million.

While starts were fairly strong, they remained 1.0 percent below the level seen in April of last year, when the rate was 1.626 million.

Housing starts exceeded analysts' expectations. Forecasters polled by Reuters predicted April starts would come in at 1.593 million units.

Apart from housing, though, the business sector is struggling with falling profits, which has prompted a lot of layoffs. Many economists worry that rising unemployment will make consumers shut their wallets, exacerbating the slowdown.

In making its decision to cut rates, the Fed cited problems in the business sector, such as profit concerns, but also said it expected inflation to remain contained in an environment where "pressures on labor and product markets (are) easing."

After the release of the CPI data, some private economists speculated that the Fed might have had the data sometime on Tuesday and that possibly this knowledge helped to solidify its decision to lower rates half a percentage point, to 4 percent.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics, however, said this was not the case.

Reuters

HP reports 66% drop in net profit

SAN FRANCISCO, California—Printer and computer maker Hewlett-Packard Co., said on Wednesday its second-quarter net profit fell 66 percent due to economic weakness and internal troubles.

The US economy appeared to be bumping along a bottom, but sales might drop in the third quarter as Hewlett-Packard focused on profitability and dealt with a depleted order pipeline, executives said.

Chief executive Carly Fiorina told a conference call she could not say when the economy would pick up. "While we don't see it getting substantially worse, we don't see it getting a lot better in the near term," she said.

Net profit at the No. 3 personal computer maker fell to $319 million from $935 million in the quarter a year ago, as sales dropped 4 percent to $11.6 billion from $12 billion.

"Our results continue to be impacted by significant macroeconomic challenges and particular weakness in consumer and capital spending in the US and Europe," Fiorina said in a statement.

"But we can't pin all of our issues on the economy."

Earnings per share on an operating basis topped Hewlett-Packard's target of 13 to 17 cents, reduced last month when analysts expected more than double that.

But analysts polled by Thomson Financial/First Call by Wednesday had forecast a similar range as the company and an average of 15 cents, which the company beat with a profit of 18 cents per share after 43 cents a year ago.

"There doesn't seem to be a whole lot of surprises relative to what they preannounced," said John Park, a computer hardware analyst for Independence Investment Associates, an affiliate of John Hancock.

HP shares have underperformed the American Stock Exchange Technology Hardware Index by about 15 percent this year. *Reuters*

Tobacco firms cleared in case

NEW YORK—Philip Morris Cos. Inc. and RJ Reynolds Tobacco Holdings Inc. were found not liable on Wednesday in a wrongful death case brought by the husband of a deceased former smoker, extending the industry's winning streak in cases brought by individuals.

A six-member jury at Middlesex County Superior Court in New Brunswick, New Jersey unanimously rejected claims brought against the top two US tobacco companies by Dr. Myron Mehlman on behalf of his deceased wife, Constance Mehlman.

Mrs. Mehlman was diagnosed with lung cancer and died in 1997 at the age of 62. She had started smoking at age 17 and quit in 1974.

Mehlman, a PhD biochemist toxicologist who teaches at the Robert Wood Johnson School of Medicine, had been seeking unspecified compensatory and punitive damages. His wife had smoked Philip Morris' Marlboro and RJR's Camel brands.

The plaintiff's attorneys argued that the companies knew of the link between smoking and cancer since before 1950 but failed to warn consumers of such risks.

"Ignorance, confusion, lies and controversy thus became integral elements of the products which the defendants sold," the plaintiff's complaint read.

By the time the surgeon general's landmark report that linked smoking with cancer was issued in 1964, Mehlman had been smoking for 13 years.

Plaintiff's attorney Charles Patrick said in opening arguments that the 1964 report showed that heavy cigarette smoking was a cause of cancer in men, but did not mention effects on women. Mehlman continued to smoke after the report was issued. *Reuters*

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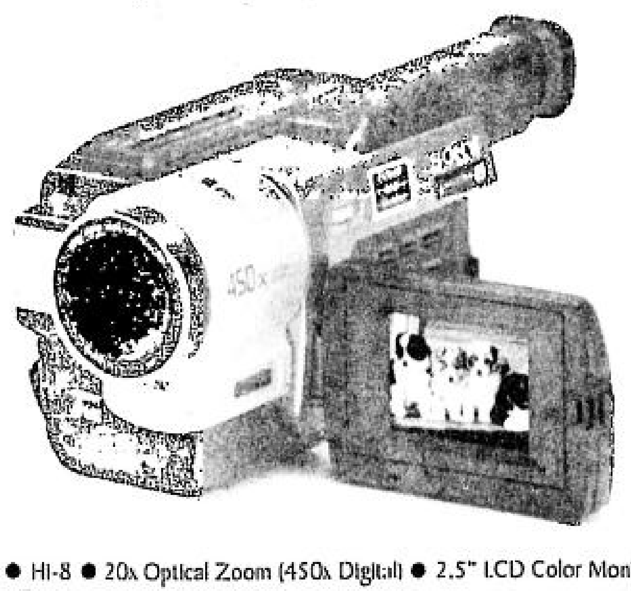

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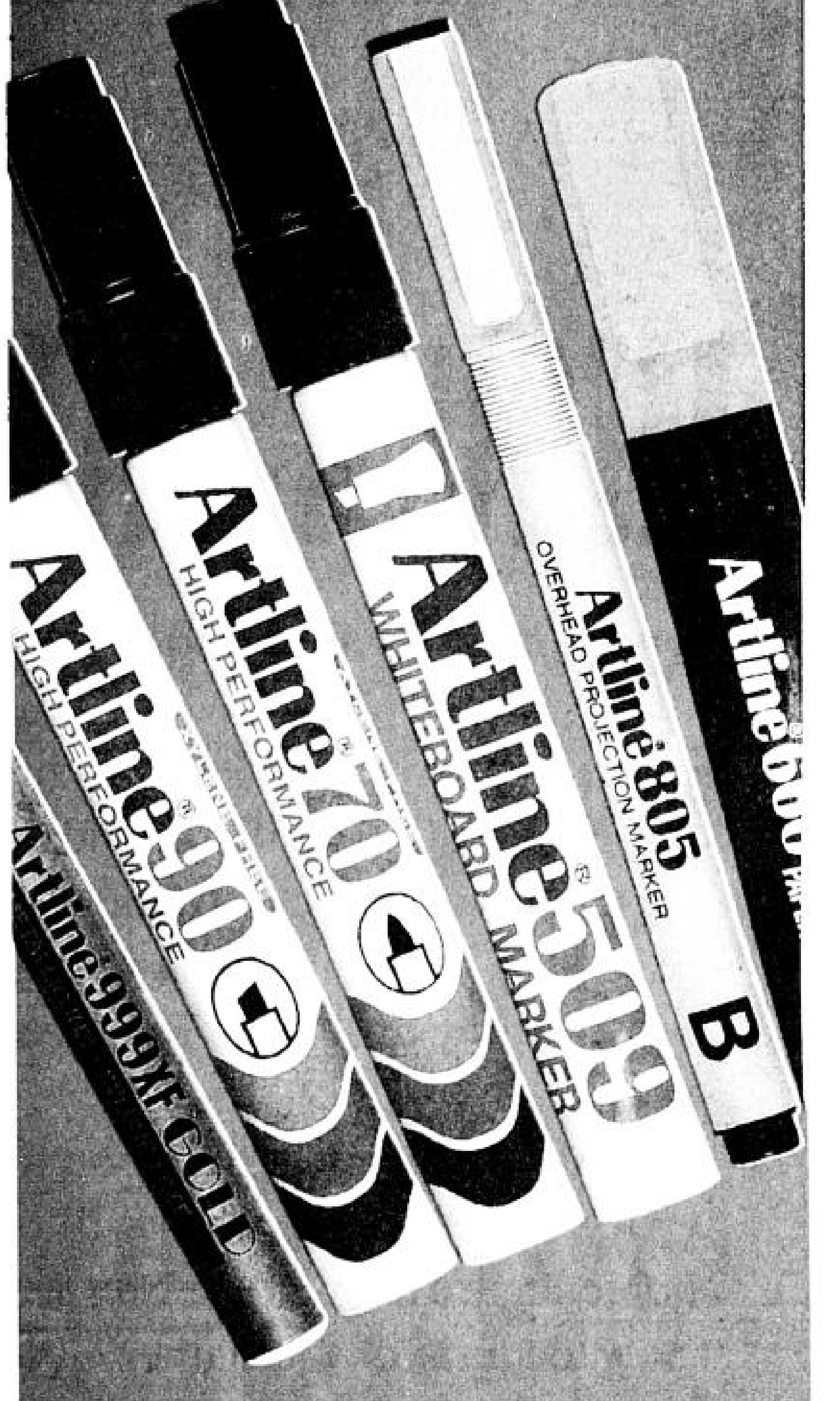
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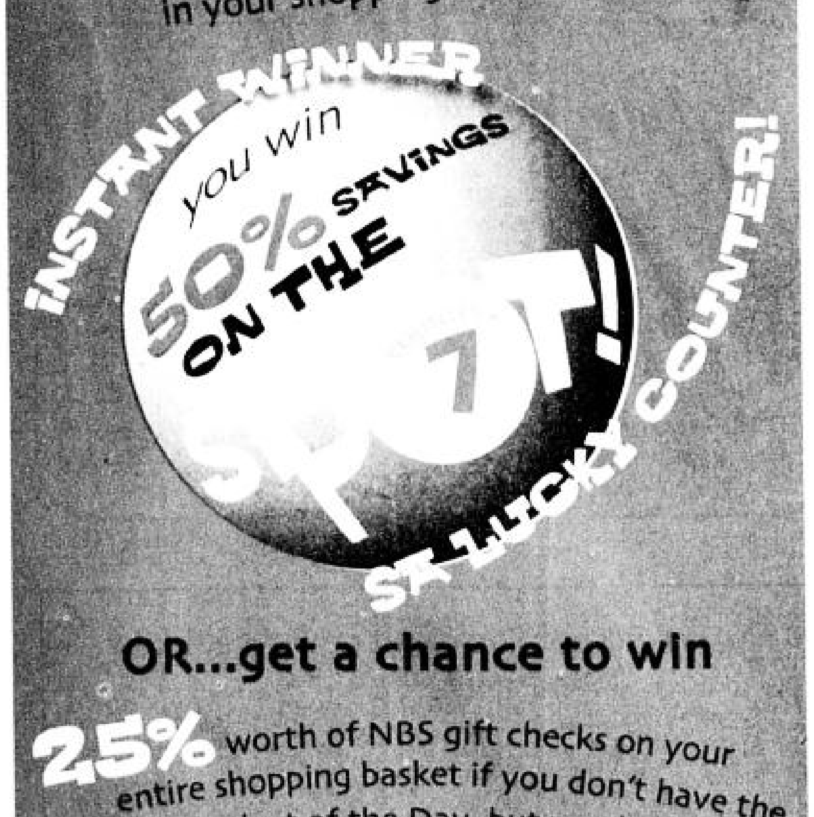

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Day before publication

**The Board of Directors,
Management and Staff of**

GREENHILLS PROPERTIES, INC.

mourn with deep sorrow the passing away
in Madrid, Spain of

MIGUEL CAMPOS

Founder, Chairman and Former President

His remains will lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose in Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. Interment will be on Saturday, 19th of May at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 1:00 p.m. Requiem Mass.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to any of the following foundations will be deeply appreciated: Hospicio de San Jose, Hogar de San Joaquin, or the Father Guido Colette, O.S.J. Foundation.

The Board of Directors,
Management, and Staff of

MIGUEL CAMPOS ENTERPRISES, INC.

mourn with deep sorrow the passing away in
Madrid, Spain of

MIGUEL CAMPOS

Founder, Chairman of the Board

His remains will lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong, commencing the morning of May 18, 2001. The Burial shall be on May 19, 2001 immediately after the celebration of the Holy Mass at 1:00 p.m. His remains shall be buried at the Lanuza Family Mausoleum in the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

We extend our condolences to his widow **Julia Ortigas de Campos**; niece **Mercedes Lanuza**; sister **Josefina da Silva**; sister/brothers-in-law, and other relatives. We request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to any of the following foundations will be deeply appreciated: Hospicio de San Jose, Hogar de San Joaquin, or the Father Guido Coletti, O.S.J., Foundation.

Patricia Majam Espiritu

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on May 15, 2001 at the age of 92.

Her loving children Buddy & Rosalie, Val, Ding & Loreta, Fely & Vic, Toto & Pining, Boy & Fely, Junior & Baby, brothers Nando & Osboy, grandchildren, great grandchildren, sisters-in-law, relatives and friends remember her with love and request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state in Mabolo III, Bacoor, Cavite.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 20, 2001 at Binakayan Cemetery after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.

2 Corinthians 4:14

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Luzon**

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Baguio City
Mr. Avelino Nonog
[illegible]
Maharlika Livelihood Center
Baguio City
Tel. Nos. (074) 442-[illegible]
Mr. Victor Navarro
Times City News Agency [illegible]
2nd Floor Maharlika Livelihood Center, Baguio City
Tel. Nos. (074) 443-[illegible]
Mr. Rey Elefan
[illegible] News Agency, #58 Magnolia Alley,
Maharlika Livelihood Center,
Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 442-8176
Mr. Juanito Castro
J & R Agency
Parking Lot Upper Mabini Street
[illegible] Baguio City
Tel. Nos. [illegible]
Cellphone No. [illegible]
Batangas City
[illegible]
[illegible] P. Burgos Street, Batangas City
Tel. No. (043) 723-[illegible]
Mr. Ramon P. Perez c/o Ms. Dodie Simon
Perez Educational & Magazine Store
[illegible] Perez Building, [illegible] Silang Street,
Batangas City
Tel. Nos. [illegible]
Bulacan
[illegible]
[illegible] Malolos, Bulacan
Telefax [illegible]
Mr. Rodolfo D. Gregorio
[illegible] Baliwag, Bulacan
Tel. No. [illegible]
Office: Core Communications
Baliwag Shopping Center, [illegible] Building
[illegible] Poblacion, Baliwag, Bulacan
Cabanatuan City
[illegible]
[illegible] Street, Kapt. Pepe Subdivision
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 463-0823 E-mail: [illegible]@mozcom.com
City Supermart
[illegible] Street, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 462-1143
[illegible]
[illegible] Street, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 463-2022

Nueva Vizcaya
Hilarion John L. Manzano
Nueva Vizcaya Travel & Tours
Poblacion North Solano, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax No. (078) 326-[illegible]
Pampanga
[illegible]
Lot 4 Block 20 Phase II
Corner St. Peter and St. Jude Streets
St. Jude Village, San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. Nos. [illegible]
[illegible] Building, Dolores Homesite
McArthur Highway, Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. [illegible] e-mail: [illegible]
Pangasinan
Mr. Vic Chua
JVL Largo Forwarders Co. Ltd.
243 Rizal Street, Calasiao, Pangasinan
Tel. No. [illegible]
Mr. Mario Novales
[illegible] Bookstore
[illegible] Avenue, Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tel. No. [illegible] Fax No. [illegible]
Mr. Hermenio Romero
Romero's Trading
Rizal Street, Poblacion, Mangaldan, Pangasinan
Tel. No. [illegible]
Puerto Princesa
Ms. Angelita Leonor
Leonor's Mart
[illegible] Street, Puerto Princesa City
Tel. Nos. [illegible]
Mr. Tomas Chuy Tan
[illegible] Street, Puerto Princesa City
Tel. No. [illegible], Cell No. [illegible]
Tuguegarao
Mr. Richmond Pobre
[illegible] Tuguegarao Central Market
[illegible] Street, Tuguegarao, Cagayan
Tel. No. [illegible]
E-mail: [illegible]
Tarlac City
[illegible]
[illegible] Street, Tarlac City
Tel. No. [illegible], Cell No. [illegible]
Fax No. [illegible]

Laguna
Mr. Fernando B. Hernandez
Residence: [illegible] Street
[illegible] Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tel. Nos. [illegible]
Store [illegible] J.P. Rizal Street, Cabuyao, Laguna
Tel. No. [illegible]
Ms. Susan D. Baybay
[illegible] Exchange Co.
[illegible] San Pablo City
Tel. No. [illegible] Fax No. [illegible]
Email: [illegible]
Isabela
[illegible]
[illegible] Rizal Street, Cauayan, Isabela
Tel. No. [illegible]
Ms. Catalina Javier
Trader News and Magazine Agency
[illegible] Santiago City
Tel. No. [illegible]
E-mail: [illegible]
Legaspi City
[illegible]
[illegible] Legaspi City
Tel. No. [illegible]
Cathy P. Sendin
[illegible] Marketing
[illegible] Avenue, Legaspi City
Tel. No. [illegible]
Lipa City
[illegible]
[illegible] Plaza Building, T.M. Kalaw St.
[illegible] Lipa City
Tel. No. [illegible]
Email: [illegible]
Naga City
Mr. Ramon B. Sia
RS Newspaper and Magazine Headquarters
[illegible] General Luna Street,
Naga City Tel. No. [illegible]

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Visayas**

Diri na ta sa INQUIRER *bay! Sayon na sulit pa!*

Mr. Jim Feliciano
309 Ledesma Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 508-2530
Fax (033) 509-0190
Kalibo
Dra. Beaso Candelario
R. B. Printing
Pastrana Street, Kalibo, Aklan
Tel. No. (036) 262-4155/268-5200
Roxas City
Ms. Marieta Santos
Komiks Magazines and Newspaper Dealer
Door C, MB Building, Fuentes Drive
Roxas City
Tel. No. (036) 621-5586/622-6925
Tacloban City
Mr. Neil Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053)325-6743/321-2954
Tagbilaran City
Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
Doña Rosario Village
G. Penaflor Street
Tagbilaran City
Tel. No. (038) 411-5007

Bacolod City
Ms. Elizabeth Verdeflor
c/o In-hand Negros Inc.
C.L. Montelibano Drive
Mandalagan, Bacolod City
(034) 433-3828/712-7021
Cebu
Cebu Daily News
16-15 Escano Street, Cebu City
Tel No. (032) 232-7618
Dumaguete City
Mr. Raymund Mercado
Hi-Top News Mag and Gen. Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. No. (035) 225-5796/225-4364
Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. No. (035) 225-4320
Iloilo
Eddie-Mar News and Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. (033) 337-3120

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Mindanao**

Ake ya tu na INQUIRER*. Sirea ya, sulit pa!*

Butuan City
Mr. Rolando Busa
R.C. Busa Trading, 490 G. Flores Avenue,
Butuan City
Tel. Nos. (085)225-3247/225-3169
Cagayan de Oro City
OMNI General Merchandise
Dr. 1 De Leon Building
Pabayo-Pacana Streets, Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. No. (08822) 722-530
Grandstar News and Magazines
122 Cruz Taal corner Pabayo Street
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. No. (088) 857-2571/857-1612
Telefax (088) 231-3246
E-mail: grandstar@hotmail.com
Cotabato
Marquez News and Magazine Agency
61 Sinsuat Avenue, Cotabato City
Tel. (064) 421-3264
Davao City
Dabaw Periodicals, Inc.
Duterte Street, Davao City
(fronting Galleria Hotel)
Tel. No. (082) 226-4406/221-3379/221-3424/226-2931

Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall, Bajada
Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza, Bajada
Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 221-3927/227-4410
General Santos
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083)552-3352
Telefax No. (083) 301-8731
Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
Tel. No. (062) 215-1448/214-2641
Zamboanga
Mr. James Hao
Marien's Variety Store, 86-88 Sevilla Street
Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-4294/991-1436
Mr. Ruben Bautista
#71 C. Atilano Street, Zamboanga
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-2965/
(062) 993-2826

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

PHILAM

The Officers, Staff and Agency Force
of the

PHILAM GROUP OF COMPANIES

mourn with deep sorrow the passing away
of a colleague and friend

DON MIGUEL "MIKE" V. CAMPOS

Former Chairman and President, The Philippine American General Insurance Company (PHILAMGEN)

Former Director, The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company (PHILAMLIFE)

We extend our condolences to his widow **Julia Ortigas de Campos**, niece **Mercedes Lanuza**; sister **Josefina da Silva**; sister/brothers-in-law and other relatives. We request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose in Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 19, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 1:00 p.m. Requiem Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations to any of the following foundations will be deeply appreciated: Hospicio de San Jose, Hogar de San Joaquin, or the Father Guido Colette, O.S.J. Foundation.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."

John 11:25-26

The Board of Directors, Management, and Employees of

GOLAY BUCHEL PHILIPPINES, INC.

share sorrow with the family of the late

ANTONIO VELASCO ORTIGA

Chairman of LA ESTRELLA DEL NORTE INC.

He peacefully joined his Creator on May 14, 2001 at the age of 75.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Family Chapel, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Broadway, New Manila.

Interment will be on **Saturday, May 19, 2001** at the **Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque**, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Broadway, New Manila.

We request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

"Lord, in your steadfast love, give him eternal rest."

The Board of Directors, Management, and Employees of

PHILIPPINE REALTY & HOLDINGS CORPORATION
and its subsidiaries

Meridian Assurance Corporation
PRHC Property Managers, Inc.
Universal Travel Corporation
Tektite Insurance Brokers, Inc.

mourn with deep sorrow the passing away in Madrid, Spain of

MIGUEL CAMPOS

Founding Director, Former Chairman and President

His remains will lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong, commencing the morning of May 18. The burial shall be on May 19 immediately after the celebration of the Holy Mass at 1:00 p.m. His remains shall be buried at the Lanuza Family Mausoleum in the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

We extend our condolences to his widow **Julia Ortigas de Campos**, niece **Mercedes Lanuza**, sister **Josefina da Silva**, sister/brothers-in-law, and other relatives. We request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to any of the following foundations will be deeply appreciated: Hospicio de San Jose, Hogar de San Joaquin, or the Father Guido Coletti, O.S.J., Foundation.

PEDRO MAGSINO MORALES, D.M.D., F.I.C.D.

UP Class 1941, WWII Veteran
Founding Dean DMSF College of Dentistry, Davao City

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 14, 2001 at the age of 81.

His bereaved wife **Elisa Martin Morales**; children **Toty** and **Emma**, **Jing** and **Cynthia**, **Girlie** and **Harold**, **Malou** and **Vince**, **Precy** and **Boyet**; grandchildren **Mel** and **Ed**, **Emy** and **RJ**, **JonJon**, **Tess**, **Cheye** and **Jayvee**, **Cher**, **Joonie**, **Joy**, **Jade**, **Jill**, **Patrick**, **Arpee**, **Aymond**; great grandchildren **Drea**, **Matth**, **Nikki**, **Alix**, **Bea**, **Mon**; relatives and friends request for your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Camus St., Davao City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 19, 2001 at the Davao Memorial Park after the 8 a.m. Funeral Mass at the Carmelite Monastery Chapels, Bajada, Davao City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

HOKEI SUBIC CORPORATION

#40 Golden Future St. cor. Aim High Ave.
SBIP Phase 1, Subic Bay Freeport Zone

Is in need of:

HEAD-QUALITY CONTROL DEPT.

Qualification:

- Male/Female, College graduate of any prestigious Universities/Colleges in Manila
- Preferably knows Chinese dialect; or if not, must have experience in quality control works

Interested applicants may call and send their resumé and complete credentials to MS. HAZEL CLARINO at tel. no. (047) 2525395-96 at the above address.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital invites interested accredited bidders/suppliers to pre-qualify and to bid for:

1. Supply and delivery of Linen Materials for three (3) months use;
2. Construction of Fire Exit Stairs for Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital

Pre-Qualification requirements and other details maybe obtained from the JFMH PBEC Secretariat on **May 21 to 23, 2001.**

All interested bidders are required to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on **June 15, 2001**, 2:00 P.M. at the Reception Hall, JFMH. Those who fail to attend shall automatically be disqualified from participating in the said bidding.

All bids must be accompanied by bid security equivalent to 2 1/2 % of the total bid price but not to exceed Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) which maybe in the form of GSIS bond, cash, manager's check or bank draft or guarantee against any reputable bank or any combination thereof.

The JFMH PBEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated is the most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **LILIA A. GUERRERO**
Chairperson, PBEC

(PDI--May 16, 17 & 18, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO BID

Interested suppliers/dealers are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the supply and delivery of various office supplies to:

1) Branches and Offices of the Clerks of Court of the Regional Trial Courts and Metropolitan Trial Court in the National Capital Judicial Region;

2) Branches and Offices of the Clerks of Court of the Regional Trial Court, Municipal Trial Courts in Cities, Municipal Trial Courts, Municipal Circuit Trial Courts, Shari'a District Courts and Shari'a Circuit Courts in the different provinces and cities in the country.

Bids of pre-qualified bidders will be received by the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Supreme Court of the Philippines, Taft Avenue, Manila before 2:00 p.m. on **June 20, 2001**. At said time and date, sealed quotations submitted will be opened publicly by the Committee on Bids in the presence of the participating bidders and/or representatives at the 2nd Floor Centennial Building, Supreme Court.

Interested suppliers/dealers may obtain the necessary pre-qualification requirements from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Office of the Administrative Services, Supreme Court, which should be submitted not later than 4:00 p.m. on **May 28, 2001**. A Pre-bid conference of qualified bidders will be held at 2:00 p.m. on **June 13, 2001** at the 2nd Floor Centennial Building, Supreme Court. Only bids of pre-qualified bidders will be entertained at the time of bidding.

Proposal forms, Terms and Conditions and list of office supplies subject of this particular bidding will be furnished to pre-qualified bidders.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairperson
Committee on Bids

(PDI--May 18, 2001)

DBP

Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on 30 May 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
LDA-137 a	428 Inocencio St., San Roque, Pasay City	253.70 m² adjoining residential lots (TCT Nos. 119287 and 126066) with 4-door apartment type residential building	P 2,520,100.00
LJG-96	28 Chico Road, Potrero, Malabon	164 m² residential lot (TCT No. M-21189) with two-storey residential building	P 1,151,800.00
BULACAN			
VCP-19	No. 78 Dr. Teofilo Santiago St., Poblacion, Sta. Maria	250 m² residential/semi-commercial lot (TCT No. T-18584 P(M) with three-storey residential building and improvements thereon.	P 3,200,000.00
CAVITE			
LRD-114	J Soriano St., Bo. Ligtong IV, Rosario	9,922 m² agro-residential lots (TCT Nos. T-899531 and T-899532) utilized as salt bed and fishpond.	P 9,922,000.00
VCP-46	Bo. Iruhin, Tagaytay City	1,500 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-36905) with fence	P 4,776,300.00
LRD-108b & 108c	Lot 11 & 13, Cherry St., Greenfield Subd., Bo. Silangan, Rosario	Two (2) parcels of vacant residential lot each with 216 m² (TCT Nos. T-896707 and 899528) with fence	P 655,400.00 (per lot)
ZAMBALES			
LDA-137B	Bo. Lucapon, Sta. Cruz	6,639 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. 48082)	P 2,627,800.00
CHATTELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" and per unit basis)			
VJC (79b1-79b14)	FMI's Warehouse, National Road, Masagana Homes, Phase III, Bgy. Tabang, Guiguinto, Bulacan	15 units of various machineries and equipment for steel fabrication.	P 3,700.00 to P 255,000.00/unit
LDA (126a-126f)	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	6 units of various machineries and equipment for fabrication of steel furniture/metal accessories.	P 7,000.00 to P 70,000.00/unit
VJC (90a1-90a12)	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	18 units Edging Machines with table, stand and motor	P 5,000.00 to P 37,900.00/unit
VJC (90b1-90b7)	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	16 units straight sewing machines with table, stand and motor.	P 8,700.00 to P 43,700.00/unit
VJC (90c1-90c5)	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	16 units Embroidery sewing machine with table, stand and motor	P 5,900.00 to P 43,300.00/unit
VJC (90d1-90d8)	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	13 units various machineries for garments manufacuring with standard accessories.	P 10,000.00 to P 43,700.00/unit

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:

892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L; and
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2144 for Code starting with V;

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI - May 17 & 18 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Petitioner,
-versus- **SSC CASE NO. 3-15142-2000**
FARMACIA INTIA, represented by BERNARDITA DY,
Respondent
x-----------------------------------x

SUMMONS

TO : **BERNARDITA DY**
Owner and Manager
of Farmacia Intia

G R E E T I N G S :

You are hereby required to file within fifteen(15) days from the date of publication of this Summons with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, 12th Floor, SSS (Makati) Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Makati City, your Answer to the Petition filed by Social Security System for the revival of judgment in order to enforce the Resolution, dated **December 11, 1990**, promulgated in SSC Case No. 12195, entitled Nimfa Gallardo Villanueva vs. Farmacia Intia, represented by Bernardita Dy, insofar as to the collection of the penalties imposed for the late payment of the due contributions.

You are further required to serve a copy of your Answer upon the petitioner at the SSS thru the Senior Vice-President, Legal and Collection, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

If you fail to answer within the time prescribed above, the Hearing Commissioner, may upon motion of the petitioner or motu-proprio, declare you in default and shall forthwith proceed to receive the petitioner's evidence ex-parte and thereafter recommend to the Commission either the granting or denial of the petition as the evidence may warrant.

SO ORDERED

Makati City, Philippines, **May 7, 2001.**

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI - May 18 2001)

GARAGE SALE

Brand New Housewares
(table top, small electric, décor)
May 19 to 20, 2001 (Sat to Sun)
from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm only
at 425 Acacia Street, Ayala Alabang

Your connection
to better people,
better jobs.

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JOBMarket
ONLINE

www.jobmarketonline.com

GIA

THAILAND CAMPUS

Gemological Institute of America

Learn about Gems and Jewelry

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the most recognized gemological credential

Next G.G. Program starts June 11, 2001

GIA Thailand Campus

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Fax: (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc15.th.com
www.giathailand.com

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
PO Box 70, U.P., Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

Interested parties/contractors with at least Medium B-Building category are invited to bid for the:

RETROFITTING OF A SIX-STOREY CONCRETE BUILDING (BOLTED STEEL AND/OR ADVANCED COMPOSITE SYSTEM)

The Public Bidding will be held at 10:00 a.m. on June 28, 2001 at the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) Social Hall, Philippine Sugar Center Building, Diliman, Quezon City.

Pre-qualification forms may be secured from the Secretariat, 3rd Floor, Annex Bldg., SRA Compound starting May 21, 2001.

Bid forms at Php 1,000.00/set shall be issued by the Secretariat to pre-qualified bidders on June 13, 2001.

A Pre-bid conference shall be held at 9:00 a.m. on June 20, 2001.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bidder's bond either in Cash, Cashier's/Manager's Check or GSIS bond equivalent to 10% of the total bid price.

SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality/ or defect therein and accept the bid most advantageous to the office.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI--May 18, 19 & 20, 2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Not true, man

The Chicago Tribune has scored many scoops, but the editors blew it in the 1948 U.S. presidential election. In a burst of exuberance, they prematurely declared Thomas Dewey as winner with a night edition headline reading DEWEY DEFEATS TRUMAN. The real winner, Harry S. Truman, didn't let them forget their mistake. He waved this edition from a train platform the next day before an army of chuckling photographers. Truman actually beat Dewey by more than 2 million votes.

Classified Odd. In May 1996, Quebec (Canada) legislator Andre Boulerice denounced voter fraud during a committee meeting, citing one particular example of bogus names registered to vote in Old Montreal. "I know there are famous people in my (district)," said Boulerice, "but I doubt 'Omar Sharif' would be voting (here)," especially since, according to voter records, he shares an apartment with "Martina Navratilova." The next day, neighbors of the couple reported, Sharif (Jr.), son of the actor, is indeed married to a stockbroker named Martina Navratilova.

The first countries to give women the right to vote were New Zealand (1893), Australia (1902), Finland (1906), Norway (1907), and Denmark (1915).

Past Forward. This day in 1975: Junko Tabei, a 35-year-old Japanese housewife, became the first woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest (29,128 ft) in Nepal, twenty-two years after it was first scaled by New Zealand beekeeper Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norkay, his Sherpa guide.

WORD WATCH

Boondocks (boon'daks) : a wild, heavily wooded area; wilderness; from the Tagalog *bundok*, 'mountain.'

PDI – May 18, 2001

Experience London and Paris with Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa

TRAVELING to a new destination is always an adventure. But this is never more true than when you go exploring two of Europe's most popular cities – London and Paris.

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The grand prize is a trip for two to London while the second prize winner will travel to Paris with a companion for free.

Swinging London

Vanity Fair recently proclaimed London as "the coolest, hottest city in the world." Home to superstar-fashion designers, multi-awarded chefs and avant-garde theater and music artists, London's sense of modernity is stronger than ever.

One definite attraction is the West End – famous for its shows and collection of theaters, cinemas, restaurants, hotels and nightclubs. Opera lovers can look forward to the treat of Covent Garden, concert enthusiasts can go to the Royal Albert Hall, while pop and rock fans should go see the Rock Circus.

London is also a shopper's paradise. From Harrods and the boutiques of Knightsbridge, to the antiques and bargains on sale at Portobello Road, King's Road in Chelsea and the Camden Market, you'll find no shortage of great buys and finds. If you remember playing Monopoly, don't miss the department stores that line these familiar roads: Bond Street, Oxford Street, Regent Street, Piccadilly and more.

Yet, what continues to draw tourists to this capital of Great Britain is its rich history. Landmarks you must see include the Big Ben, the Tower Bridge, the Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament and of course, Buckingham Palace.

If you still have time, walk through Hyde Park and take in as many of the city's great buildings, art galleries and museums as you can.

Touring Paris – the 'City of Lights'

Definitely one of the most stimulating cities in the world, it's been written that writers, painters, architects and philosophers all found inspiration in Paris. And maybe you will too.

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Tour the city's galleries and endless museums beginning from the Louvre and D'Orsay, including the postal and police museums. Be sure not to miss a peek at Mona Lisa, Venus de Milo and Winged Victory.

Your sightseeing should cover a visit to the Eiffel Tower for stunning panoramas of Paris from the viewing platform. Apart from this famous symbol of Paris, try and catch the Opera House, the Place Vendome, the Madeleine, the Place de la Concorde and the Arc de Triomphe. Of course, your visit won't be complete without a stopover to the historic Notre Dame Cathedral.

As for the nightlife, Paris has so much to offer – from romantic dinners to cabaret shows.

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Other prizes up for grabs include five Samsonite luggage sets and 200 Hong Kong Tourism Board foldable bags.

So start using your Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa and grab this chance to see London, Paris and Hong Kong and the world for free.

$400-M WB loan scrapped

By Clarissa S. Batino

UNABLE to comply with strict requirements set by the country's creditors, the Macapagal administration has canceled a $400-million banking sector reform loan from the World Bank.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo said in a news briefing yesterday that the government would instead negotiate another loan, also with the World Bank, within the next six to 12 months, and that it would press for less stringent conditions.

"We will let the (World Bank) loan lapse and then enter into new negotiations with the World Bank. It will probably have less conditions than the previous one," Romulo told reporters.

A person familiar with the matter said the Macapagal administration found the conditions attached by the World Bank to its $400-million banking sector reform loan too tough to comply with, particularly those involving Philippine National Bank.

The government isn't sure what to do with PNB. It has yet to decide whether to sell all its remaining stake in PNB, which now stands at 15 percent, or do a "reverse privatization" and regain majority control of the bank.

The government extended a P25-billion loan to PNB in October last year. It is now studying whether it will be prudent for it to convert this loan into equities and beef up its stake in PNB.

If it does raise its stake in PNB, the government stands to lose the $400-million World Bank loan. The World Bank has set, among its many requirements before releasing the loan, the full privatization of PNB.

The Macapagal administration is apparently leaning toward raising its stake in PNB following its decision not to proceed with availing of this loan.

PNB is currently in the hands of beer and tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan, whose combined stake in the bank stands at 67 percent.

Tan has agreed to sell his stake jointly with the government, as PNB has proven to be an unprofitable part of his business empire.

On Wednesday, PNB reported a P2-billion net loss in the first quarter of the year, more than double last year's comparative figure.

SEC asked to clear sale of Pure Foods

AYALA Corp. has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to approve a special block sale of its 93.98-percent stake in Pure Foods Corp. to San Miguel Corp. at P124 per share, or a total of P7 billion.

In a letter to the SEC, Ayala managing director Renato Marzan said San Miguel would make a tender offer to acquire the remaining outstanding shares of Pure Foods from minority shareholders at the same price of P124 per share.

The tender offer is required under the Securities Regulation Code and SEC rules. Under the law, any group or person who intends to acquire over 30 percent of a publicly held company within a one-year period, or a 15-percent stake, should make a tender offer to purchase the shares of the remaining shareholders of the publicly listed company at the same price.

Under the planned special block sale, 34.708 million common class "A" shares and 18.348 million common class "B" shares of Pure Foods representing a total 93.98 percent of the total issued and outstanding capital stock of Pure Foods would be coursed through the facilities of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Marzan said the crossing of the Pure Foods shares at the PSE would take place on May 22 subject to the fulfillment by Ayala and San Miguel of conditions precedent-to-closing.

RFM reports 30% drop in net income

By Elena R. Torrijos

RFM Corp. said yesterday its net income slid 30 percent to P22 million in the first quarter of the year.

The company, one of the country's biggest food and beverage firms, said its net revenue improved slightly to P3.871 billion during the January-March period from last year's P3.735 billion.

It said its operating income, meanwhile, rose significantly to P283 million from P49 million in the first quarter year-on-year, but charges amounting to P167 million ate most of it up.

RFM's processed meats and poultry unit, Swift Foods Inc., meanwhile, reported a turnaround in the first quarter with a profit of P51 million from last year's P33-million net loss.

Swift credited the turnaround to better selling prices of poultry products after the government tightened restrictions on the importation of chicken parts.

RFM is currently completing plans to meet its $85 million in obligations on its convertible bonds.

In a statement, RFM chief financial officer Al Roy said these plans included a combination of funds from internally generated cash flows and cash reserves, new loans, and sale of non-core assets.

RFM was said to be in negotiations to sell its chicken unit, Swift Food, to food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. to raise cash to pay off its maturing debts.

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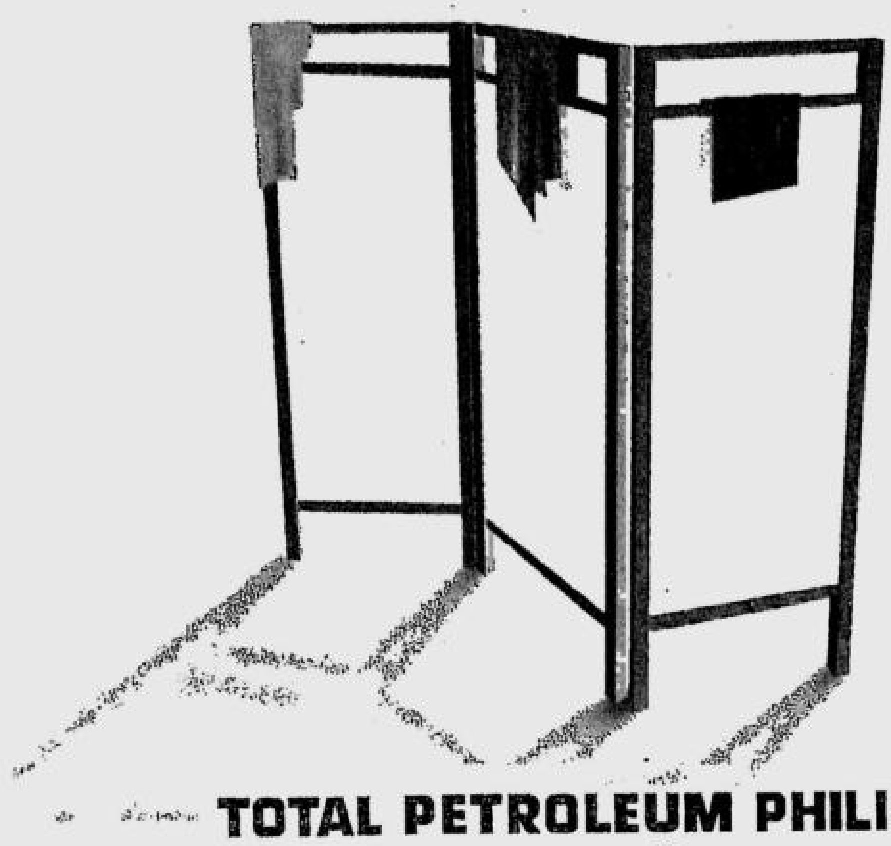

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Teaching OFWs to earn pesos, too

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

OFWs have to learn that they do not have to stay away from home forever to earn money, according to Carlito E. Balita (inset), president of the Executive Center for Professionals Inc.

PARENTS have inculcated in the minds of their children that they should study well, get a degree and then work for a big company when they graduate.

Well many children heeded their parents' advice and studied commerce, nursing or teaching. Unfortunately, economic difficulties have forced these professionals to seek employment abroad—not as the white collar workers their parents imagined them to become but as domestic helpers.

Carlito E. Balita, president of the Executive Center for Professionals Inc. says in an interview that these professionals need not remain as domestic helpers or somebody's employee. They can work for themselves by becoming entrepreneurs.

Balita admits that this is easier said than done considering that Filipinos, in general, are not entrepreneurial unlike counterparts in Hong Kong or in Singapore.

"With our training programs for Overseas Filipino Workers, we want to change their mindset and convince them that they can do well in business. They need to have a paradigm shift and realize that they don't have to work far away from home forever," he says.

The task is daunting especially for OFWs, some of whom do not even know how to switch on a computer. But through a training course that includes basic accounting and management, they can get a head start and invest their savings from working abroad into business ventures.

The program is called "Balik Pinas Entrepinoy Program" which aims to train OFWs and their families the basic tenets of entrepreneurship. One of the basic ideas they propagate is that they should be risk takers to be successful in the business, just like role models Manuel Villar, Henry Sy and John Gokongwei.

"I feel that the OFWs should be trained to become entrepreneurs because these people have sacrificed enough by working abroad. It is not only them but also their families who are affected," Balita says.

These OFWs also have the added burden of having no job waiting for them once their contract is completed, or if they do, the pay is just a fraction of what they are getting as domestic helpers.

Balita is proud to say that over 6,000 OFWs in Hong Kong and Singapore have completed the entrepreneurship program. Many of them have invested in small businesses, while others are on the planning stage.

"We only started last year and we were informed that over 77 new accounts were opened by OFWs in Metrobank Hong Kong for their start-up capital," he says.

Balita says two groups of OFWs have put up convenience stores in Pangasinan and in Los Baños. Some have entered into hog raising, meat processing, farming, fish culture and even video services.

"Virtually everyone is thinking about going into business. All they need is some encouragement and focus on what businesses they can go into," Balita explains.

As he says, everyone has an idea but not everyone can translate these ideas into a business reality.

To provide some leads, EntrePinoy has tied up with professional groups who can help entrepreneurs get a head start. These include the Screenprinting and Imaging Graphic Association of the Philippines for silkscreen, Jun Encarnacion, Philippine International Trading Corp. and the Entrepinoy Chamber of Small and Medium Enterprises.

Balita says he is always excited to provide training to OFWs saying that they are the most enthusiastic listeners and they really attend because they want to make a difference in their lives.

"We don't need to inspire them because they are already inspired," Balita says. (For information, call 716-2323, 713-6075.)

FRED Uytengsu of Alaska, Jose Mari "Butch" and Cris Albert and Alaska coach Tim Cone.

Sports firm tries to kick Nike out of top spot with its shoes

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

MARKETING STRATEGY

YOU think of athletic footwear and chances are the brands Nike or Adidas immediately come to mind.

The name Fila may also come to mind but only after some thought, and it may be lumped with other brands like Reebok or even Converse and Puma.

How does one beat Nike out of the No. 1 spot in the country?

For Fila, the answer lies in the footwear market where it has been able to eat a sizable chunk of the market over the past 10 years.

Cris Albert, general manager of iSport Life Inc., the subfranchisor and sublicensee of Fila Italy claims that Fila is currently the third largest seller of rubber shoes in the Philippines.

Some two million pairs of athletic shoes are sold annually, of which some 56 percent are Nikes, 25 percent are Adidas and 15 percent, Fila. The other brands are Reebok, Converse, Puma, even Bench and Giordano.

Two decades ago, Adidas was the No. 1 brand in the country. But the aggressive marketing stance taken by Nike in the US, getting very popular endorsers like Michael Jordan, which spread across the globe, eventually forced Adidas to move down to the No. 2 spot.

Ironically, Fila entered the Philippines ahead of Nike.

Jose Mari Albert, the husband of Cris, brought the brand to the country 18 years ago, going into a joint venture with Fila Italy under the then Fila Philippines Inc.

Somewhere along the way, the brand encountered some image problems. This was eventually fixed by improving the products' distribution system.

Cris describes that Fila has four modes of distribution—through concessionaires, through wholesalers, boutiques and door-to-door selling.

Concessionaires, mostly in SM stores, generated the bulk of the sales, but a significant 30 percent of the sales also came from door-to-door selling under a tri-level marketing scheme.

Cris says this scheme was started five years ago and the firm now has 30 master network directors. The scheme is used in Manila and Cebu largely to "penetrate the lower market."

Under the scheme, the buyers pay on a term basis to the distributors, similar to the Avon or W. Brown distribution system. Cris says the saleable items are the imported footwear.

Nike was actually the first athletic footwear brand to go into direct selling when its franchise was under Mondragon, then distributor of Triumph underclothes.

Cris says foreign firms are not usually very keen on direct selling as the margins are very small and it tends to "bastardize" a brand.

But she points out that when Fila saw their sales growth they did not object to the scheme.

From 10th place 10 years ago, Cris says the growth to third place is significant. The goal has always been to be number one but she admits that competing against the huge advertising budgets of Nike and even Adidas is tough.

iSport, however, has an ace up its sleeve.

Albert says they recently bought out Fila Italy and is now the sole owner of the trademark in the country. They have also clinched the first and so far the only subfranchising and sublicensing agreement from the European firm.

This agreement is what Albert says will give them the edge over their competitors since they will have substantial leeway in producing and distributing Fila products.

Cris explains that it can come up with a wider variety of products to choose from since it owns the brand in the country (they pay royalties to the Italian firm).

"The sublicensees will be able to get top of mind and market share which is part of the total vision of the company. And this will not just improve profitability and market share but it

SPORTS/ C2

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Streamlining the BIR process

TAX-FILES

By Elner A. Reyes
SGV & Co.

A FEW months ago, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) issued a series of guidelines in the form of Revenue Memorandum Circulars (RMC).

The purpose of the guidelines was to streamline the bureaucratic process in obtaining certain actions or securing rulings with established precedents with the BIR.

The BIR commissioner issued the guidelines pursuant to his authority to delegate powers under Section 7 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 (Tax Code).

The authority of the commissioner to delegate his powers to subordinates is granted by the Tax Code. In theory, the purpose of such delegation of powers was to lessen the workload of the delegating authority so that he can give more attention on matters with greater imports.

These guidelines were intended not only to lessen the workload of the commissioner but more importantly to shorten the administrative process in certain actions to the benefit of the public.

As a rule, the Tax Code allows the commissioner to delegate any power vested in him to any subordinate officials with the rank equivalent to a division chief or higher, subject to such limitations and restrictions imposed under the rules and regulations to be promulgated by the secretary of finance.

However, the Tax Code expressly prohibits the CIR to delegate the following powers:

(1) Power to recommend the promulgation of rules and regulations by the secretary of finance;

(2) Power to issue rulings of first impression or to reverse, revoke or modify any existing ruling of the BIR;

(3) Power to compromise or abate taxes under Section 204(A) and (B) of the Tax Code except for assessments issued by the regional offices involving basic deficiency taxes of P500,000 or less, and minor criminal violations; and,

(4) Power to assign or reassign internal revenue officers to establishments where the articles subject to excise tax are produced or kept.

It must be noted that the finance secretary has not yet come up with the necessary rules and regulations imposing restrictions on the authority of the CIR to delegate powers to his subordinates.

In the absence of such limitations and restrictions, the CIR may still delegate any of his powers given by the Tax Code except only to those powers enumerated above.

In line with the policy to expedite the delivery of service in certain actions as well as to streamline the administrative process in the bureau, the commissioner issued RMC Nos. 2-2001, 3-2001, 10-2001 and 18-2001 reinforcing his right to delegate powers to subordinates under Section 7 of the Tax Code.

The CIR issued RMC No. 2-2001 authorizing the assistant commissioner for legal service to sign the following documents:

(1) VAT exemption certificate for embassies;

(2) Certificate of tax exemption for Asian Development Bank and other international organizations based on international agreement;

(3) Certificate of residency issued in accordance with the provision of tax treaties between the Philippines and other countries; and

(4) Certificate of registration as qualified donee institution.

Without the circular, the action or certification will have to be routed to the office of assistant commissioner for legal service and then to the office of deputy commissioner, legal inspection group, for review and final approval.

The circular effectively shortens the administrative process up to the office of the assistant commissioner, legal service.

Under RMC No. 3-2001, all regional directors were authorized to sign certain actions or rulings with established precedents to taxpayers under their respective jurisdictions. The actions or rulings shall be prepared by the legal division of the regional office concern and shall be limited to the following subject matters:

(a) Tax exemption on the sale or disposition of principal residence under Section 24(D)(2) of the Tax Code;

(b) Tax exemption under Section 30 of the Tax Code, including tax exemption of non-stock, non-profit educational institutions;

(c) Tax exemption of cooperatives under RA No. 6938, as amended by RA 7716 and RA 8241;

(d) Tax exemption of senior citizens under RA No. 7432;

(e) Tax exemption of NHA and private sector participating in socialized housing including participants in Community Mortgage Program under RA No. 7279;

(f) Request for change of accounting period under Section 46 of the Tax Code;

(g) Extension of time for the filing of estate tax return under Section 90(C) of the Tax Code as well as the payment of the estate tax under Section 91 thereof;

(h) Exemption from donor's tax under 101 of the Tax Code;

(i) Tax exemption of separation benefits of employees for any cause beyond their control under Section 32(B)(6)(b) of the Tax Code;

(j) Exemption from income tax and, consequently from withholding tax of "De Minimis Benefits,"

(k) Tax treatment of transfer to the condominium corporation of common areas of a condominium under RA No. 4726; and,

(l) Use loose-leaf invoices/receipts and books of accounts (manual).

The circular requires that every request for action to be filed before the regional office shall be accompanied by a sworn statement on "non-forum shopping" stating that such request has not been filed or previously acted upon in the BIR national office, duly signed by the taxpayer or his duly authorized representative.

In case the taxpayer is not satisfied with the action taken by the regional director or that the request for action remains unacted after the lapse of a reasonable time, he may elevate the case to the office of deputy commissioner, legal and inspection group, through the assistant commissioner legal service, for appropriate action.

It is worth noting that prior to the issuance of RMC No. 3-2001, a memorandum was issued by the CIR to the deputy commissioner, legal and inspection group dated June 21, 2000 authorizing him to sign and approve all actions and rulings covered by items (a) to (l) above.

With the issuance of RMC No. 3-2001, the authority to approve and sign those actions and rulings was transferred to the regional director of each region making it easier for the taxpayer to secure the desired action or ruling with less cost and effort.

Please note that by virtue of the June 21, 2000 memorandum, the deputy commissioner, legal and inspection group, has retained the authority to sign rulings with established precedents (including VAT rulings with recommendation from the VAT review committee) and also rulings on tax deferred exchanges under Section 40 of the Tax Code.

Under RMC No. 10-2001, the CIR expanded the authority given to the assistant commissioner, legal service, to sign the following documents:

(1) Denial of claim for informer's reward under Section 282 of the Tax Code;

(2) Issuance of disbursement voucher for informer's reward duly approved by the secretary of finance;

(3) Issuance of Tax Credit Certificate or disbursement voucher for tax refund in compliance with the decision of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and Court of Tax Appeals which has become final and executory;

(4) Request for tax exemption of "Reasonable Private Benefit Plan";

(5) Request for confirmation that the "Reasonable Private Benefit Plan" is still tax exempt despite amendments to its provisions; and,

(6) Request for renewal of confirmation of the tax-exempt status of a "Reasonable Private Benefit Plan."

Similar to RMC No. 2-2001, cases covered by RMC No. 10-2001 will no longer be forwarded to the office of the deputy commissioner, legal and inspection group for review and final approval. It is sufficient that the cases have been duly approved by the assistant commissioner, legal service.

To avoid any delay in the release of the desired actions or rulings delegated to the assistant commissioner, legal service and regional directors, the CIR has come up with the list of requirements to be submitted by the taxpayer for each and every item covered by RMO Nos. 2-2001, 3-2001 and 10-2001.

The lists of documents will serve as a guide for both the taxpayer and the revenue officials to know whether there is basis to issue of the desired action or ruling. The detailed lists of the requirements can be found in RMC No. 14-2001.

The latest circular to be issued by the CIR in connection with his right to delegate powers is RMO No. 18-2001. Under the said circular, the CIR has authorized the assistant commissioner, collection service to approve and sign the following:

(1) Transfer of tax credit certificate;

(2) Revalidation of tax credit certificate; and,

(3) Conversation of tax credit certificate to cash.

The authority given to the assistant commissioner, collection service under item No. (3) is with the concurrence of the assistant commissioner, financial and administrative service.

It was mentioned, however, that this authority granted to the assistant commissioner, collection service shall exist only until such time that the tax credit refund system is fully operational and the corresponding operational manual and revenue memorandum order on these activities are approved.

To summarize, the BIR has achieved two things in issuing these revenue memorandum circulars, namely: First, it unloaded some of the duties and responsibilities of the CIR to his subordinate officials; and, second, it streamlined the bureaucratic process to the advantage of the public.

LINEA Italia chairman Freddy Panicucci (right) with Italian architects Lorenzo Ferretti Garsi and Desolina Mori

Italian architects talk on role of interiors in retail business

MOST flourishing commercial companies know that the image of their stores or shops speak volumes about the quality of the products or services they offer.

One such company is the Linea Italia Group, which continually refurbishes its 20-plus-strong chain with the latest in interiors and design to complement its high-quality Italian merchandise.

Linea Italia chair Freddy Panicucci recently hired the services of two of Italy's most talented architects to refurbish Linea Italia shops in Metro Manila and Cebu.

"This is part of our effort to upgrade the company and make it the leading player in the fashion business in Asia," Panicucci says.

Desolina Mori, 43, and Lorenzo Ferretti Garsi, 44, are veteran architects in Italy whose blueprints have seen successful fruition in a number of the fashion capital's buildings, country clubs, villas, holiday houses, hotels like the Rinini, Lago, Di Garda, Sardinia shops like that of Il Marchese Coccapani Contatto and showrooms and factory like that of Samec.

They have also worked on the restoration of several ancient structures in Italy.

"The last one we did was a beautiful palace," Mori disclosed. They have also done a number of exhibit spots for sculptures in Versailles, Paris and Montecarlo.

Mori and Garsi both have degrees in architecture from the prestigious University of Venezia, where most of Italy's respected architecture mentors hold teaching positions. They have three studios in Reggio Emilia, Carpi and Rome, which they own and run with another respected Italian architect, Giorgio Braghiroli.

Not one to rest on their successes, they have continually studied the different areas related to their field, such as colors, lighting and technology.

"There is a psychology behind the use of colors and lighting in the fashion retailing business and our task is to bring out the best response from the client through their use," Garsi explained.

The two added that their goal is to enhance the selling of merchandise.

"The most important thing is that the store complements the products that it sells. Beautiful and quality clothing must only be sold in an equally beautiful shop. This makes it more inviting for clients," Mori said.

Having made their rounds of Linea Italia's shops, their work will soon grace the country's fashion retailing landscape as they have already started mapping out the design of Linea Italia in SM Manila.

"We would like to use stronger and more vibrant colors and lighting that evoke a more exciting atmosphere," Garsi disclosed of their initial plans for the store.

They are also currently working on the design of Linea Italia's new shop that will be located at the fashion strip currently being put up by Greenbelt across New World Hotel.

They said that what they want to do is evoke the atmosphere of the villas in the fashion shops, giving them a "warm ambiance."

They also bared that they would be putting up "a little Italian corner" in the shops, which will sell lamps, dress and shoe racks, accents, furniture and other Italian fixtures.

In two month's time, the duo will start with Corso Marconi Festival Supermall in Alabang and eventually see to the interiors of Linea Italia's other shops.

While others opt to prioritize structure or form over their products, or vise versa, Linea Italia knows that both elements are of equal importance.

This is the reason why it makes sure that it gives its clientele not just Italy's best clothing lines at the best prices, it also finds ways to continually jazz up its shops to complement its world-class merchandise.

Herbal teas can cure your ills as well as bring in greenbacks

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry can help push the development of the herbal tea industry by setting up a dedicated desk on natural health products for easy coordination between manufacturers and the markets abroad.

OVER 13,000 medicinal plants abound the Philippines' forests and since time immemorial, our forefathers have used many of these to brew tea that helps treat various ailments as well as prevent killer diseases such as cancer and hypertension.

However, it was only over the past decade that entrepreneurs took a second look at this age-old practice and explored the possibility of making a big business out of it. The move was influenced partly by the growing trend in the Western world toward natural or organic medicine such as herbal tea and the increasing health consciousness of people.

Dr. Josef Ubaldo, former president of the Philippine Chamber of Herbal and Natural Health Industries, says the herbal tea business is a potential major dollar earner for the Philippines due to the wide acceptance by Europeans and Americans to the Philippine herbal tea varieties.

Ubaldo says retired schoolteacher Erlinda Castro Sanqui was the pioneer in the herbal tea business with her patented Pito-pito tea—a combination of seven medicinal herbs.

The United Nations Development Program even awarded it a gold medal in 1990.

During the 1997 World Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva, Switzerland, her *banaba* tea, said to be a drink for vigor and health, also got a silver medal while the *pito-pito* was awarded a bronze medal.

The popularity of the *banaba* and *pito-pito* varieties helped convince other entrepreneurs to commercialize traditional concoctions and introduce them to the rest of the world.

The following year, also in Geneva, the Tizane Vigore Tea produced by Alter Med Corp., a subsidiary of Pascual Laboratories, won a silver award.

The name Tizane was derived from the French word "ptisane" which means an infusion of dried herbs for health benefits.

The herb tea mix includes *tsaang gubat*, mango, *alagao*, *makahiya*, avocado, *pandan* and *gumamela*.

Other award-winners include the Akoz Herbal Tea with Black Plum and Mango manufactured by Cebu-based International Pharmaceutical Inc. and the Osaka Herbal Tea—a mix of *alagao*, anise, chrysanthemum, ginger, guava, mango and *pandan* for improved health.

During the last convention held at Morocco in 1998, the Philippine booth was among the most popular with Europeans wanting to taste herbal tea every tea time in the afternoon.

"After we came home, there were a lot of people from that convention who were asking for more tea, but unfortunately we do not yet produce the quantity needed to supply the foreign market," Ubaldo says.

One of the most popular was the Akoz Herbal Tea that was observed to have corrective effects on blood sugar and blood pressure levels. It was quite a hit with the Morrocans who were said to have one of the highest cases of diabetes.

Ubaldo says the Department of Trade and Industry can help push the development of the herbal tea industry by setting up a dedicated desk on natural health products for easy coordination between manufacturers and the markets abroad.

In fact, other varieties are already hitting the market.

Ubaldo says the papaya tea developed by Carica is popular in the local market. Another Filipino tea maker, Col. Virgilio Ecarma, also developed the narra tea made from the leaves of narra trees. Those who have taken narra tea say that it helped boost their immune system.

Even Gourmet's Café, which initially penetrated the market with its coffee, has produced a wide range of organically grown and caffeine-free tea.

"We are already making waves in the foreign and domestic market with our herbal tea but we still have to nurture it. I believe that it will really help bring in foreign exchange to our country," Ubaldo explains.

Sports firm tries to kick Nike out of top spot with its shoes

(From page C1)

could also affect the basics of Fila which is footwear and apparel which we own and have not plans of sublicensing," Cris explains.

They will be getting sublicensees for the accessories like caps, undergarments, slippers, eyeglasses, bags.

"The subfrancising and sublicensing contract with them is a very good tool for us to go head on with the advertising thrust of Nike and Adidas. It is very difficult for us to compete with them. The only way for us to compete is to beat them in distribution. We have to be very strong in the below-the-line activities because it is going to be very expensive for Fila to really go head on in terms of advertising," he says.

"So if we see their strength, we don't want to go head on with their strengths. We have to look at areas where they don't have it and we go in and conquer it. One is on store promotion and the other is the distribution," he adds.

Fila started in Italy as an undergarments firm in 1924. It was a very conservative firm and only the elite was using it initially.

Fila Italy recently adopted a new image—sport, life. Endorsers include basketball star Grant Hill, tennis champions Jennifer Capriati and Mark Philoppoussis and baseball homerun king Sammy Sosa.

She explains that the key here is for sports to be fun contrary to its competitors' lines of having to always be the winner.

"You play sports to enjoy life. There is no pressure you are not entangled with wanting to win. You don't have to be a winner, you are merely enjoying it and it's fashionable."

Price conscious drinkers go for stronger beers

DRIVEN by changing tastes and price consciousness among consumers, strong beers are fast eating a larger slice of the country's beer market.

Recent market surveys indicate that strong beers—malt beverages with alcohol content higher than 65 percent per volume—now account for almost 20 percent of total beer sales in the Philippines.

This means that for every five bottles of beer sold, one bottle is either of the two leading malt liquor brands—Asia Brewery's Colt 45 or San Miguel's Red Horse beer.

Market analysts believe that this shift to the strong beer category may be attributed to several factors, namely: changing consumer tastes and preferences, price consciousness, product image and economic liberalization.

Since the financial meltdown of 1997, beer consumption in the Philippines has drastically gone down. With a floundering economy, consumers began watching their wallets.

This led to what is known in the alcohol and beverage industry as "downshifting" or the shifting of consumers to lower-priced hard liquor or strong beers that give them the desired "kick" at less price.

Unwilling to lose market share to the hard liquor segment, local beer companies devised aggressive marketing schemes for malt-based beverages with higher-than-average alcohol content.

This strategy seemed to work given the phenomenal growth of the strong beer category in the last four years.

While this concentration on malt liquor paid off in terms of brisk sales, it affected the market share of the flagship Pale Pilsen brand of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.

For over a century, Pale Pilsen has been the dominant beer type in the Philippines.

San Miguel, however, continued to have a stranglehold on the beer market with its total market share up to 90 percent from 82 percent in 1997, as reported by the Far Eastern Economic Review.

The rest is held by Asia Brewery and importers of foreign beer brands.

This was attributed to the strengthening of San Miguel's distribution network. Third party dealers were increased by 20 percent and wholesalers were doubled.

"But the masterstroke was a series of new distribution contracts, credit terms and price incentives that put more hustle into the distribution system," the magazine said.

Cited as an example was a 9 percent adjustment in beer prices, with 60 percent of the increase going back to the dealers.

San Miguel's domestic beer operations increased sales revenue by 2.1 percent from 1999 levels. This was due to lower costs, tighter management of resources and higher efficiencies.

San Miguel posted an operating income of P4.1 billion in 2000, and p1.34 billion in the first quarter of the year, 3 percent higher than the same period last year.

San Miguel managed to post a slight gain in market share last year from 90.1 percent to 90.5 percent through optimized trade coverage and availability even as total industry volumes were adversely affected by declining consumer spending, the Mindanao conflict and weak farm incomes.

RED HORSE
Lagerlite

SAN Miguel's Red Horse

ASIA Brewery has Colt 45

Search engine . . .

(From page C4)

The bargainers are the ever-business minded people who see currency signs flashing in their heads whenever they see an opportunity to earn. They often "quest for deals" and are attracted by "competitive pricing."

Connectors go online to make themselves "connected," thus the name, with other Net users worldwide, either through chat or e-mail. This group actually composes a third of the Net user population, proving people's interest in connectivity and interrelation.

The routiners are those who pick their favorite websites then stick to them. Seldom do they seek new ones. They are attracted by what they consider as "superior or special content."

Lastly, the sportsters are those who visit the Web for interactive sites. "Fresh, colorful and interactive pages" attract them.

Substantiating the fact of a growing popularity of the Internet, the demographics presented during the Yehey Ad Venture showed that as of the year 2000, 5 percent of the adult population use the Internet, and it is expected to rise to 14 percent by 2004. Gauging the Net's reach in Metro Manila, 70 percent of the urban population go online either for browsing, research, chat or commerce.

What is remarkable is that 10 percent of the lower class population in Metro Manila also goes online. These days one does not need to own a computer to go online. Users can go to Net cafes and surf for P25 to P50 an hour.

With the claim of the Net's sudden click among a growing number of audience, Van Tooren describes the communication scene as transforming from a trimedia into a "TRIP" media membership.

TRIP media refers to T for television; R for radio; I for Internet; and P for print. Further underscoring the boom of the Internet usage, Van Tooren forecasts that by the year 2002, there will be a major "growth of online communities."

In the event of an increasing number of Net users, Yehey points out that businesses should see this as an opportunity to increase their market.

According to Van Tooren, 80 percent of Net users in 2000 posted increased spending from the previous year; 16 percent maintained expenditure levels and 4 percent spent less.

In the Philippines, some $1.2 million was spent online, and the amount is expected to increase to $34 million by 2004.

De Leon says it is now imperative that, "We begin to understand the Internet as a market and not just as a medium. Understanding this will help us gain advantage over competitors."

To heed this call, audience of the Ad Venture who come from various companies were invited to further augment their market via the Internet.

Varron-Jacobsen says that online advertising is becoming "normal" and enumerates its advantages over other media advertising.

Online advertising, she explains, is cheaper, has a shorter production time and a faster deployment. With only the need to design and develop Web ads, which are obviously free from the hassles of costly and time-consuming TV or radio production, the benefits of online advertising are stressed.

Some US analysts, however, have warned that dotcom firms have to rely on other sources of revenues, not just advertising, to ensure survival.

To prove the effectiveness of the Internet as an advertising medium, Yehey enumerates its advertisers who had "successful" campaigns. Included in its list are Van Melle, Smart Communications, Fuji Xerox, Sony, Bb. Pilipinas and BPI.

Yehey narrates that Van Melle, maker of Bensons Éclair candy, had an "online shootout" promo, which gathered 9,943 entries, and 4,578 actual players. The contest required players to play free throw online, and make a specific number of goal shots within a corresponding time limit. Winners were given P2,000 each.

With survey questionnaires required of contestants to fill before starting the game, Van Melle was able to gather significant data for their marketing research and advertise Bensons at the same time.

Bb. Pilipinas, on the other hand, advertised the pageant through Yehey, with the Ms Yehey voted online. Through the campaign, Net users cast their votes on who among the beauty contestants were their favorite.

Asked why should advertisers choose Yehey among other local websites, Yehey sales and marketing director Bronx Hebrona discusses the benefits of Yehey advertising. He says that Yehey is where a majority of Net users are hooked on, with "two million pairs of eyes viewing 10 million pages of Yehey per month."

Kevin Khoe, Yehey chief operating officer, adds that with Yehey containing different channels in news, finance, lifestyle and entertainment, and with their product lines like Yehey mall and Yehey bills payment, Yehey attracts more audience than any other site.

Yehey founders Alistair Israel, Voltaire Trinidad, Dave Quitoriano, Ramon Borja and Julius Alba, and others who make up Yehey were able to position the company at the spotlight with only few years of establishment.

Khoe also flaunts the payment solution that Yehey offers which is ATM, and not credit card, based. Being the first non-bank member of Bancnet, Yehey believes ATM-based payment is more effective with 10 million people using ATM, compared to only 3 million credit card holders.

Hebrano also presents the support services that Yehey has to offer to clients like Web development consultation and design, which makes it all the more convenient for clients to advertise through Yehey.

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Emerald Avenue
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G/F IBM Plaza
Building,
Eastwood City
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Libis, Quezon City

QUEZON CITY
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Gamaphel Bldg.
cor. Calderon &
Claudio Sts.,
Baguio City

DAGUPAN
Guanzon Bldg.
Perez Boulevard
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DAVAO
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Davao City

Search engine insists advertising still works in the Net

BY MICHELLE V. REMO

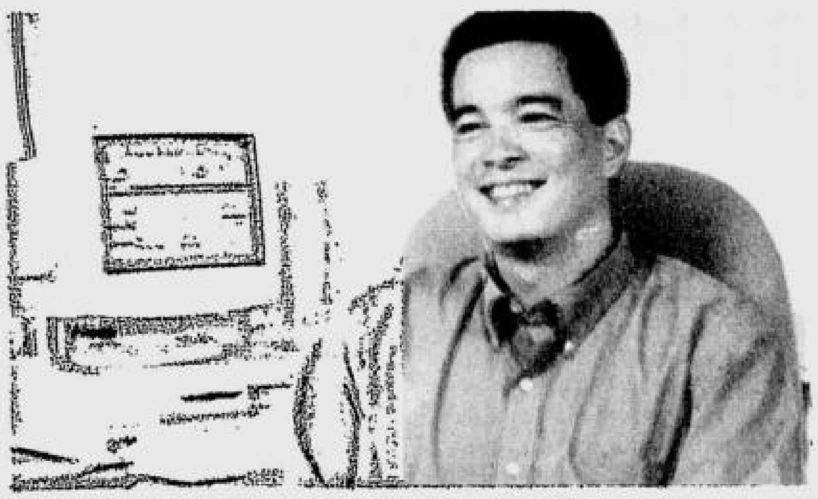
ALMOST everything that turns out to be a craze eventually loses the interest of novelty-seeking consumers. That's how fate is for fads.

Notwithstanding this, the five college friends who started out Yehey.com with only three computers, began the four-year-old search engine with the gargantuan thought that their website would be the best in the local setting and be at par with the primary sites in the world.

Yehey claims to have realized the then wild thought, with an average of 27,000 Net users hooked to its pages daily. For Yehey, the Net business is not a fad. Like the indispensability of the television and the telephone, the need to be online will soon be apparent even among the average people.

According to Dave de Leon, chief executive officer of Yehey, "Telecommunication is still very vibrant, therefore the Internet has not died." He stresses the viability of the Net business and refutes claims that the Internet will soon lose patronage.

With a wide range of services that the Web has to offer and with its visual impact on the audience, it is not a surprise that there is a constant increase in the number of those who routinely hook themselves online.



DE LEON says the Internet is a market, not a medium

During the Yehey "Ad Venture" seminar held last May 10, Sharyn Varron-Jacobsen, AVP for e-service of Aboitiz One, says the top three purposes of surfing are for sending e-mail, news updates and entertainment.

Elena Van Tooren, director of AC Nielsen Online, says, "Two out of three (Net) users are 29 years old and below."

With the features of the Net, extending from mere entertainment to business, and with e-commerce gaining popularity, Yehey believes the Net has a very diverse audience.

Van Tooren characterizes the Net users into six categories: the simplifiers, surfers, bargainers, connectors, routiners and sportsters.

She explains that simplifiers are those who get themselves hooked to seek for convenience. Obviously, "convenience" is a catch-feature, for who wouldn't consider shopping for the latest trends in clothing right at the comfort of one's ergonomic chair as something tempting?

Surfers, meanwhile, are those who go online to feed their insatiable crave for what is new on the Net by hopping from one Web page to another.

SEARCH/ C3

The money factory, supplying a world hungry for a buck

WASHINGTON—They've got a product the world wants and no one else can make. If that sounds like the perfect recipe for making money, it is.

In the belly of a block-long federal factory, clattering machines swallowing pungent brews of ink spit out money. Mountains of it, not only for use at home but increasingly for export to nearly every part of the world.

A recent day's production from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington: 14,096,000 bills.

Adding the output from its smaller Texas plant, the government made 23,763,200 bills that day worth $151.584 million.

In the Washington factory, tourists file along narrow hallways behind thick security glass to look down on the millions churning from the presses below.

A sign teases: "Have you ever been so close and yet so far away?"

The manufacturing of dollars is an oddity for a city that makes laws, policy and not always a lot of sense. It's one of the few tangible things the government turns out.

The work of the moneymakers never stops.

The bureau toils around the clock in Washington and from Fort Worth, Texas, to supply greenbacks the world wants to use.

Russians squirrel away American dollars to protect their savings if the ruble should tumble. US dollars support the reserves of central banks around the world. Dollars change hands in oil transactions involving no Americans at all and help keep the economies of Mexico and even Cuba afloat.

The stability of the American dollar has persuaded a few countries to give up their paper money altogether and go with the buck.

Indeed, foreigners are the big spenders of US money. Americans tend to rely on credit card plastic or electronic transfers for expensive purchases; foreigners consume about three-quarters of $100 bills.

Of the $500 billion in US currency in circulation, 50 percent to 70 percent is outside the United States.

All that commotion is for the sake of 12 customers: the regional Federal Reserve banks that put currency into circulation.

Of the notes made in that one day, 3.5 million were manufactured for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the primary source for money that eventually ends up overseas.

Up to 30 institutions buy, sell and ship the currency. It often takes a circuitous route, coming from commercial banks in the United States as well as being hauled away in armored trucks from the reserve's New York cash office.

Much of it is loaded on commercial flights, passengers unaware they are traveling with a fortune.

The recipients tend to appreciate a shipment that comes wrapped in distinctive blue plastic. That means it's new currency and need not be counted or authenticated; recirculated currency has to be verified.

The distribution hubs: Buenos Aires, Argentina; Frankfurt, Germany; London; Zurich, Switzerland; Hong Kong; and Singapore.

For all the bustle, these are not the busiest of times for the moneymakers.

"We're not full tilt today because the currency system is very clogged up right now," said Larry Felix, speaking for the bureau.

The bureau, heeding all the worries that attended the arrival of the new millennium, produced extra cash in case Y2K bugs risked the money supply. For that reason, among others, the pace has moderated as the bureau fills orders submitted long ago.

Indeed, the growth in US currency in circulation over the last decade has been driven mostly by foreign demand. In the mid-1990s, more than half of US currency exports were to Russia alone.

US dollars trade as freely in Argentina as the domestic currency; Ecuador replaced its sucre with the dollar last year. But coins, which came by ship from the Philadelphia-based US Mint, quickly proved to be unwieldy because of their bulk and the cost of transport.

Ecuador is making its own coins once again, while keeping US paper cash.

AP

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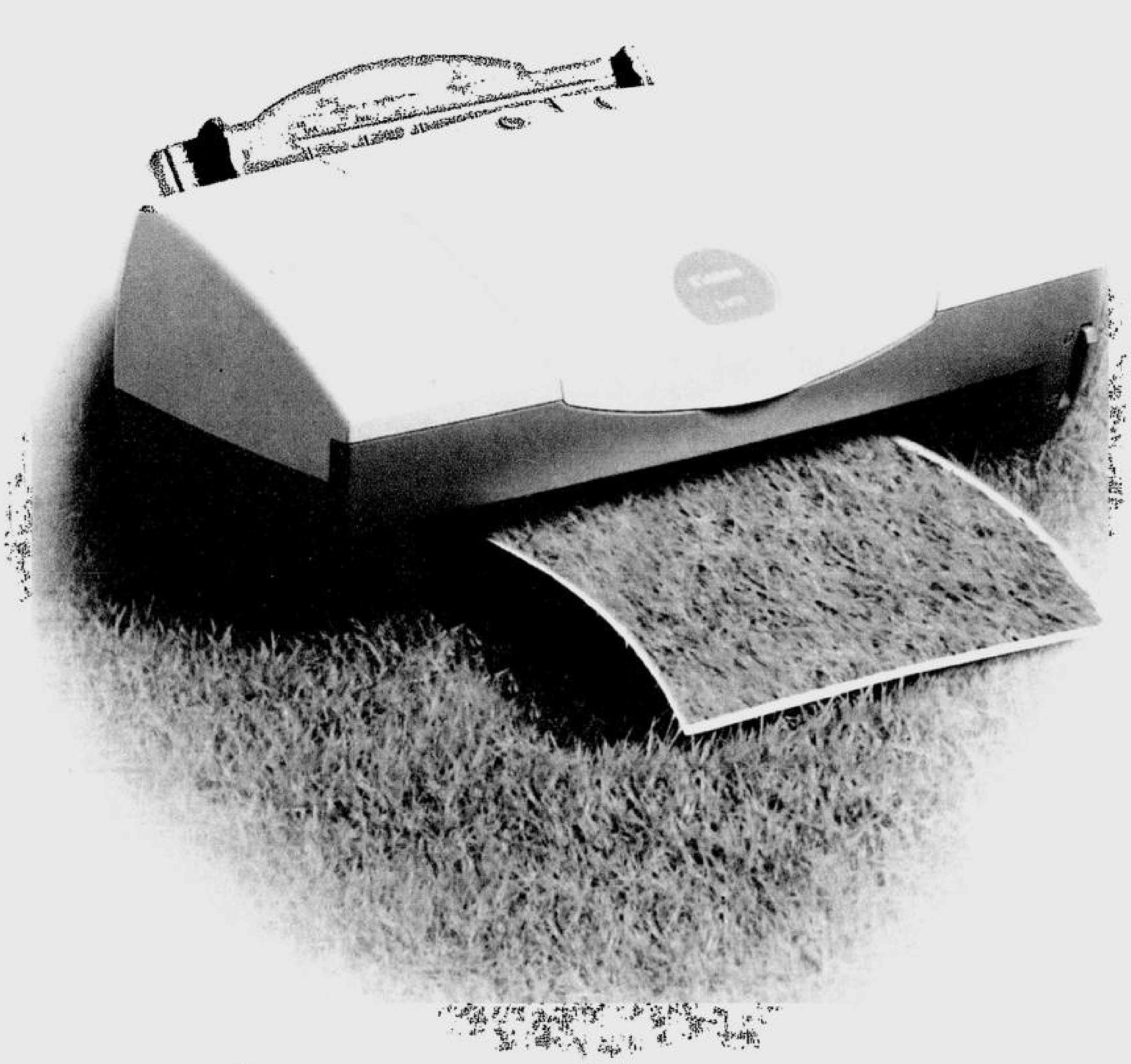

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THE DESIGNER poaches from the Cordillera culture and mixes with Western technique to make a modern Filipino style.

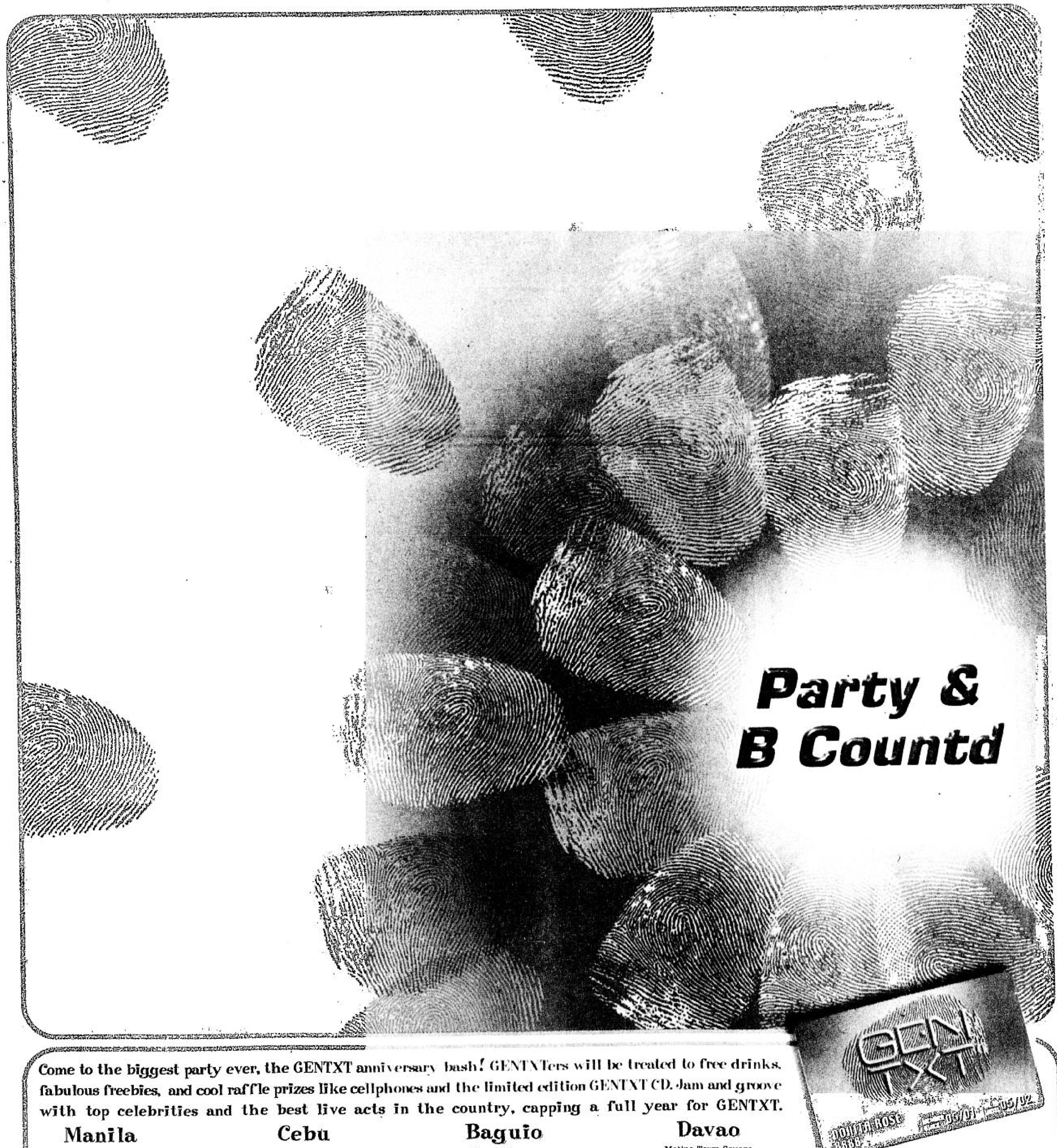
Eddie Baddeo's wild exotica

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY WAHOO GUERRERO

EXOTICISM has become Eduardo "Eddie" Baddeo's leit motif with his use of tropical imagery, ethnic details, elements of folk costumes and recycled products.

Exoticism can either refer to the fetching quality of a style or ethnic or unusual motifs in fashion. The inclusion of such motifs is a way of stirring excitement. Because fashion is based on the link and tension between the exotic and the mainstream (read: creative versus saleable), exotic looks are the more effective way of displaying oneself or grabbing attention.

EDDIE/ p.D2



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Manila
Eastwood City Walk,
Libis
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Hosts: Pia Guanio & Ed Feist
Bands: Time and a Half
Passage
DJ Ouch

Cebu
The Village
(in front of Club Fuel)
May 18, Friday, 9 p.m.
Hosts: Shaan Bermudez &
Tone Wijangco
Bands: Parliament
Syndicate
DJ Tone

Baguio
Nevada Square
May 19, Saturday, 9 p.m.
Hosts: Tricia Chiongbian
& Bobby Yan
Bands: Pido with Take One
Brown Flava

Davao
Matina Town Square
May 19, Saturday, 9 p.m.
Hosts: Shaan Bermudez
& Tone Wijangco
Bands: Parliament Syndicate
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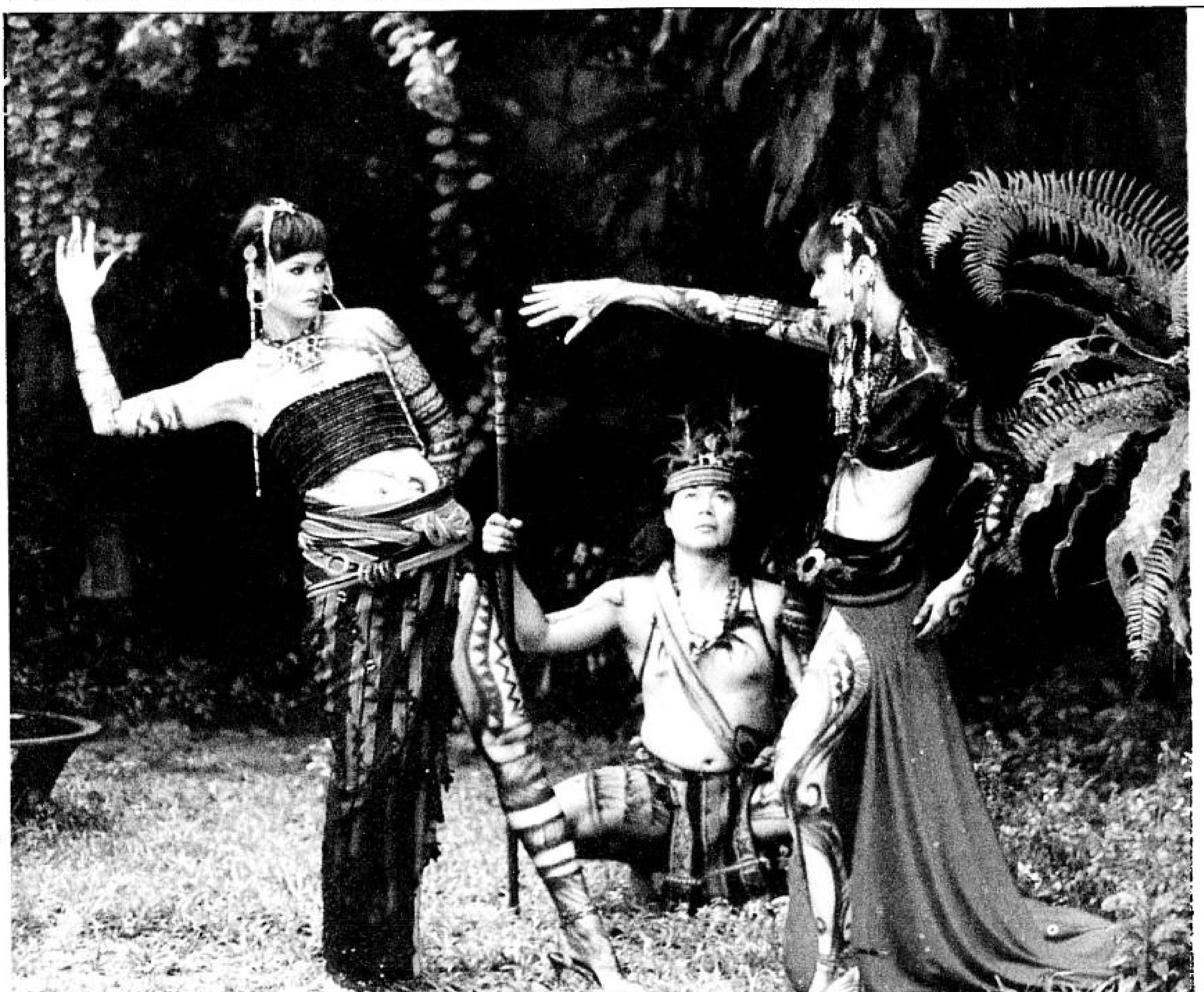


THE CLASH of two forces

Eddie Baddeo's wild exotica

(From page D1)

That's why Baddeo has never been known for subtlety. To assert his distinctiveness or to bring about innovation, Baddeo either draws references from the past or from indigenous cultures or juxtaposes found objects with luxurious materials.

Baddeo began his career 15 years ago after studying designing and cutting from Samson Institute. He produces his own fashion shows and pictorials to fulfill his creative urges and to market himself.

For his first gala in 1994, Baddeo showed his Oriental collection. In it, he examined how native fabrics were traditionally used; then he found ways to work with it by indulging in all-out drama. He mixed elements of high fashion with Mindanao fabrics. Beads were traced over ethnic patterns. Crochet and stretch knits were combined with local hand-woven fabrics. The casual T-shirt was elongated and beaded into a formal gown.

With his gift of gab, he was able to charm his clients into acquiring the clothes. Before the gala night, half of the collection had been sold out.

Off season

Off fashion season, Baddeo keeps his market excited by organizing his own pictorials. Last year, he came out with Hollywood glamour. The models were dressed in shantung gowns with exaggerated collars and dripped with diamonds.

In a photo exhibit, Baddeo poked fun at his designs. He found beauty in humble sources such as venetian blinds sewn into a bustier. A corset, made from electric fan blades that were galvanized, weighed 5 kg. A lead corset was encrusted with Swarovski crystals. Another bustier was made of bamboo. A headdress was made from a wall clock. He even made a dress from expired plastic credit cards.

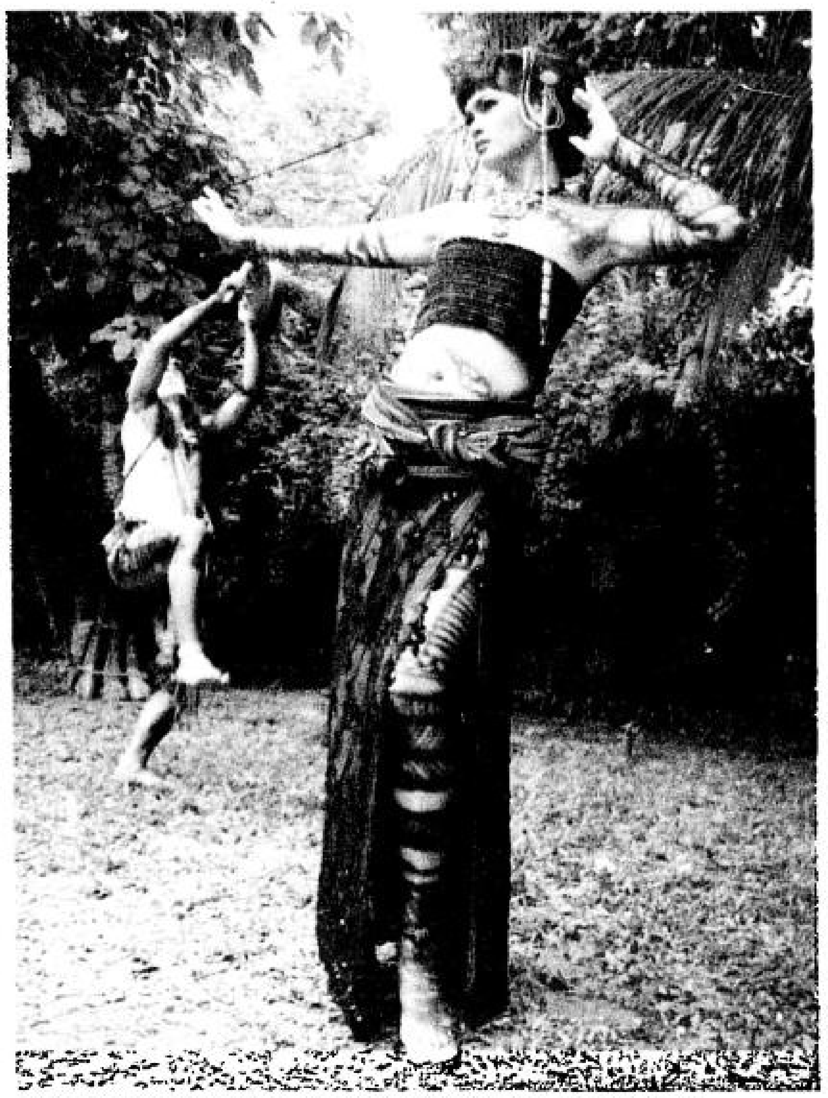
A designer asked what else Baddeo was going to make from materials from his household.

When Baddeo joined group shows such as Fashion Watch, he would make sure his collection would stand out. He overstated color and silhouettes, hired the best models and reveled in all-out drama. It earned him a reputation for being a provocateur.

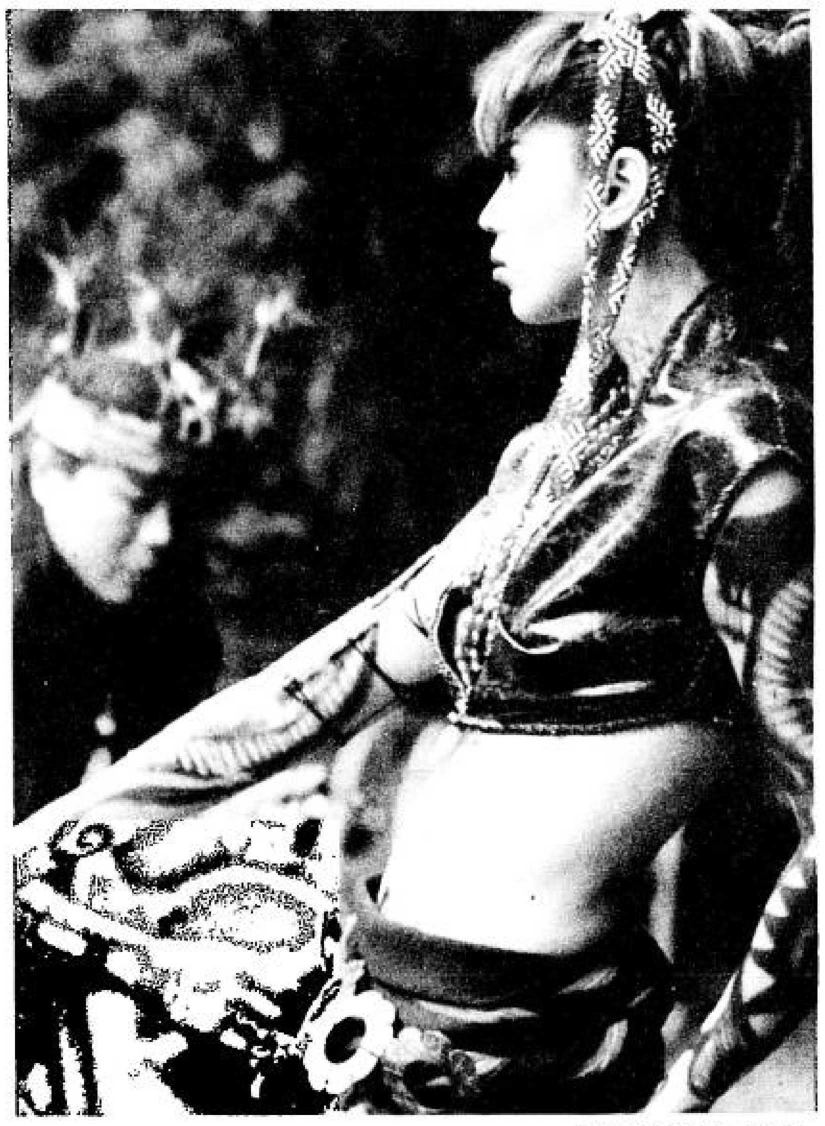
Baddeo says he's doing everything in his youth while he still has the energy.

In the last Fashion Watch, Baddeo introduced hand-woven fabrics from Benguet. He traced

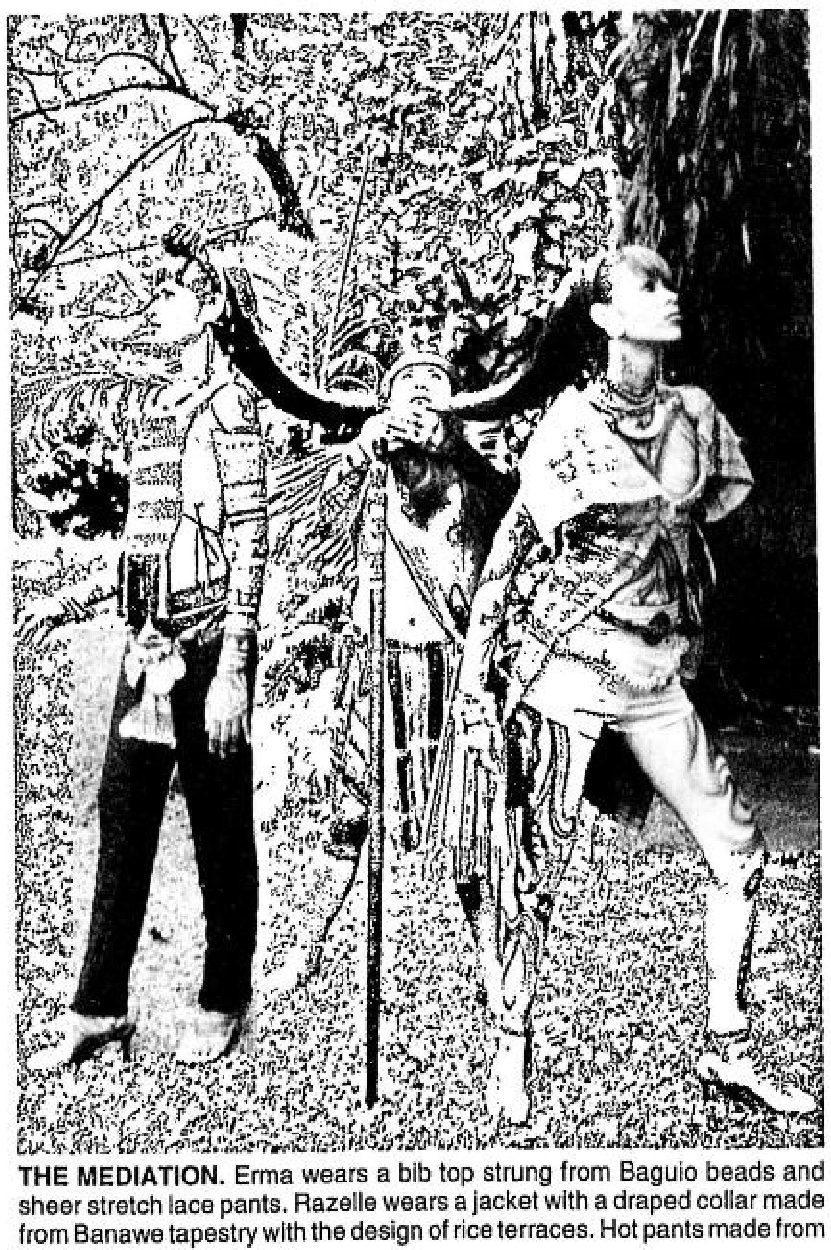
EDDIE/ p.D6



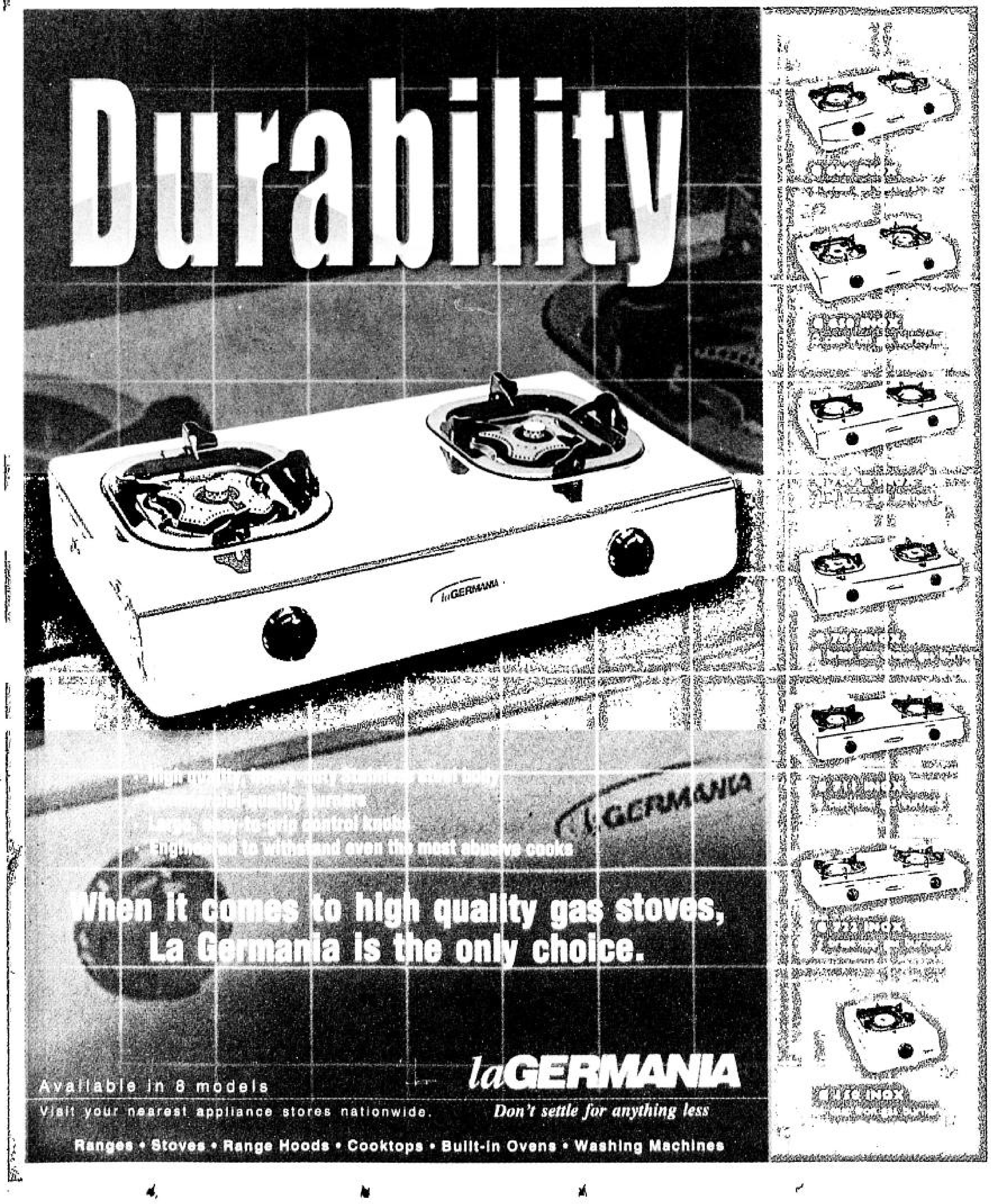
BEADED bandeau top and striped skirt with lace overskirt with beadwork



SNAKESKIN midriff and hand-woven sash accented with wooden coasters



THE MEDIATION. Erma wears a bib top strung from Baguio beads and sheer stretch lace pants. Razelle wears a jacket with a draped collar made from Banawe tapestry with the design of rice terraces. Hot pants made from stretch material are back.



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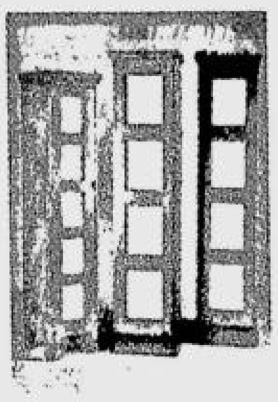

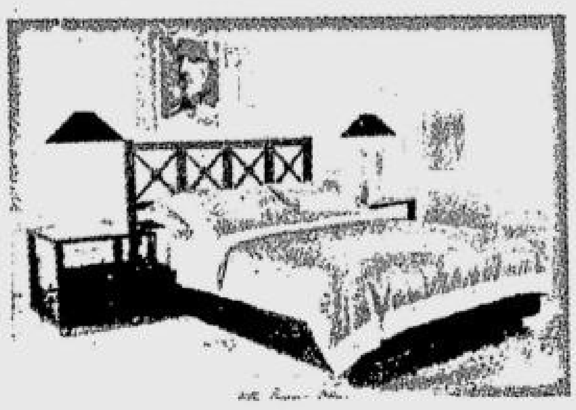
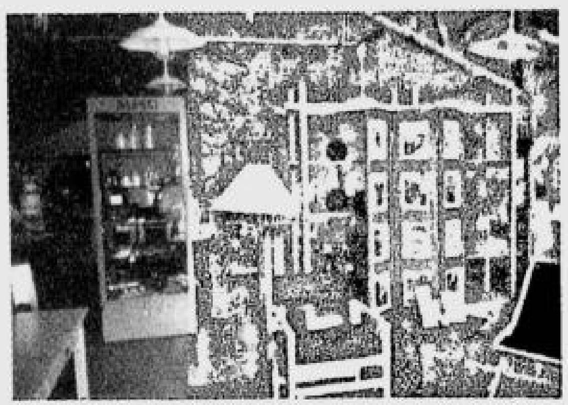
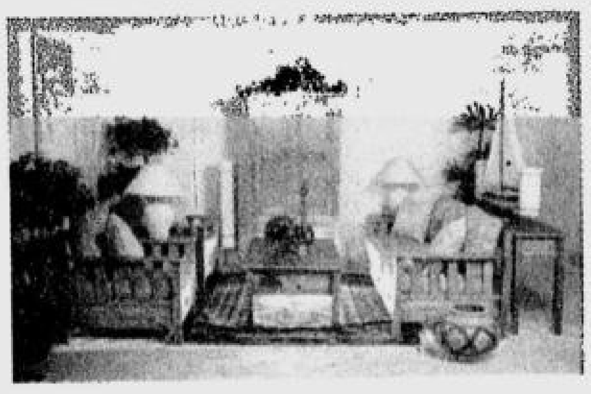
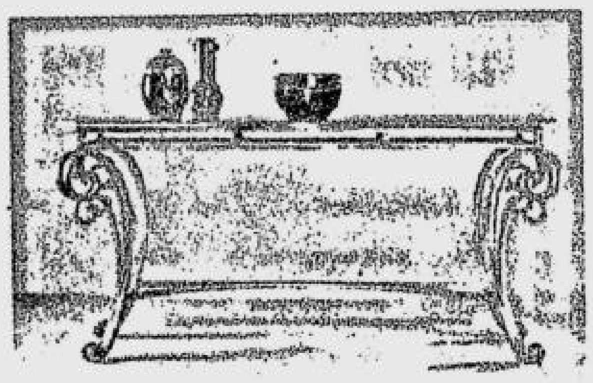

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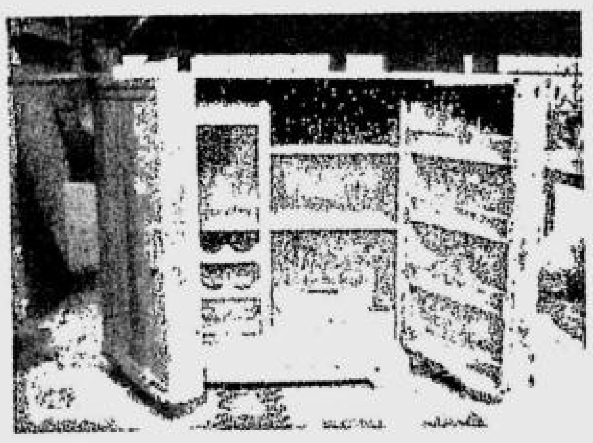
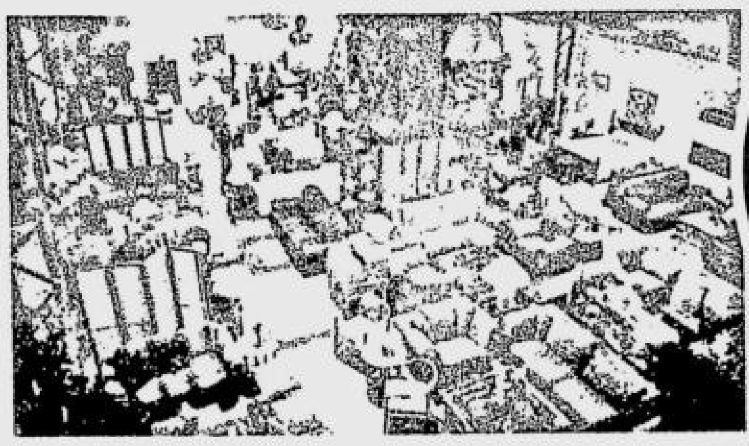

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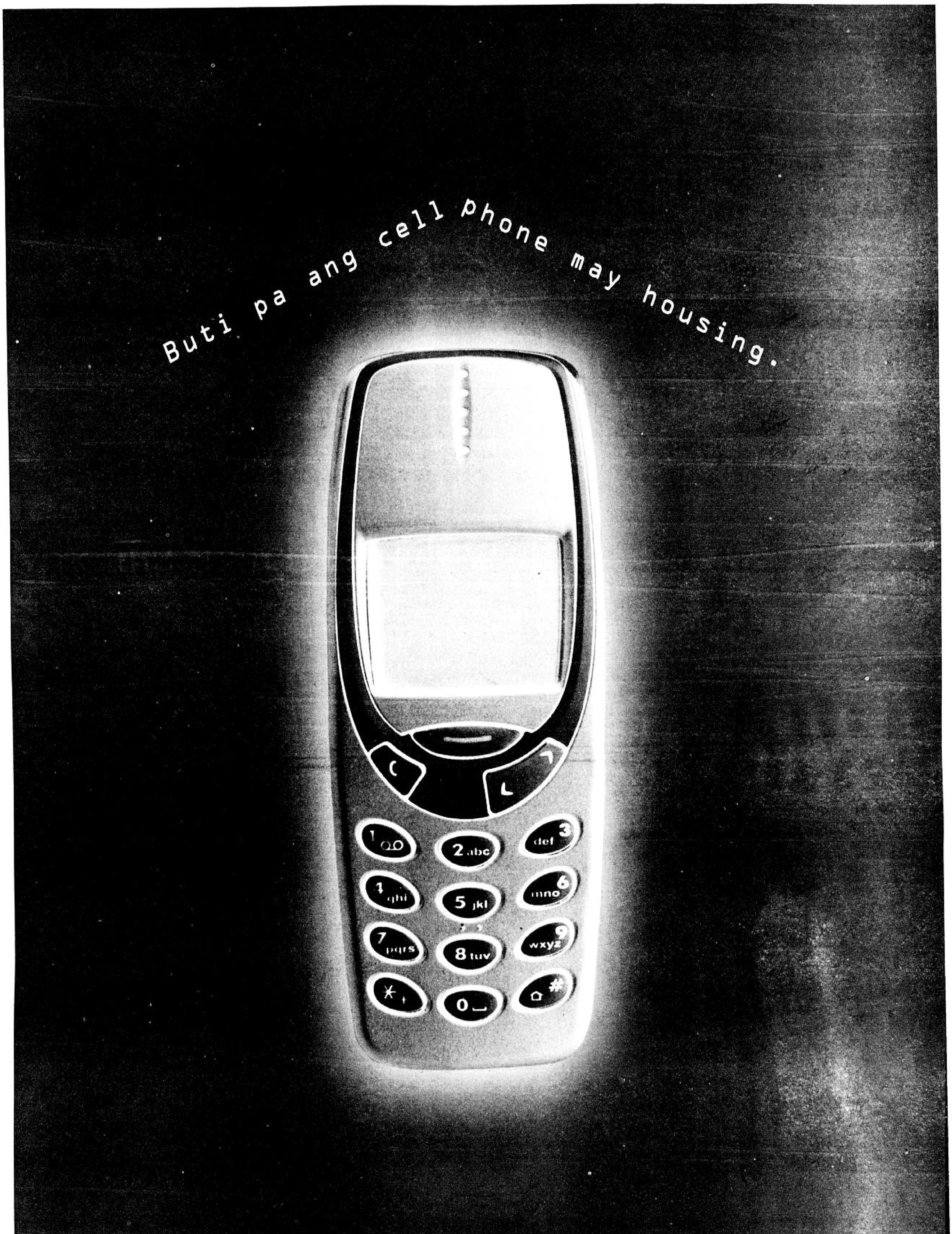

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There are still 4 million plus Filipinos who are homeless or live in substandard housing conditions. Help build their homes today.

Join hundreds of other youth volunteers when Habitat for Humanity Philippines conducts a General Registration and Orientation on May 19, at the FBDC Auditorium, The Fort, Taguig. Go forth to The Fort!

Orientation schedule: 9:30-10:30a.m.; 11:00-12:00 noon; 1:30- 2:30p.m.; 3:00-4:00p.m.

•A shuttle service will be provided from the EDSA McKinley Station to the venue.

The Youth Build 2001 Blitz Week will be from May 21-26. Get involved now!

Call the Volunteer Programs Unit at 637-5761 locals 125 and 221; or through 638-8007. E-mail at volreg@habitat.org.ph

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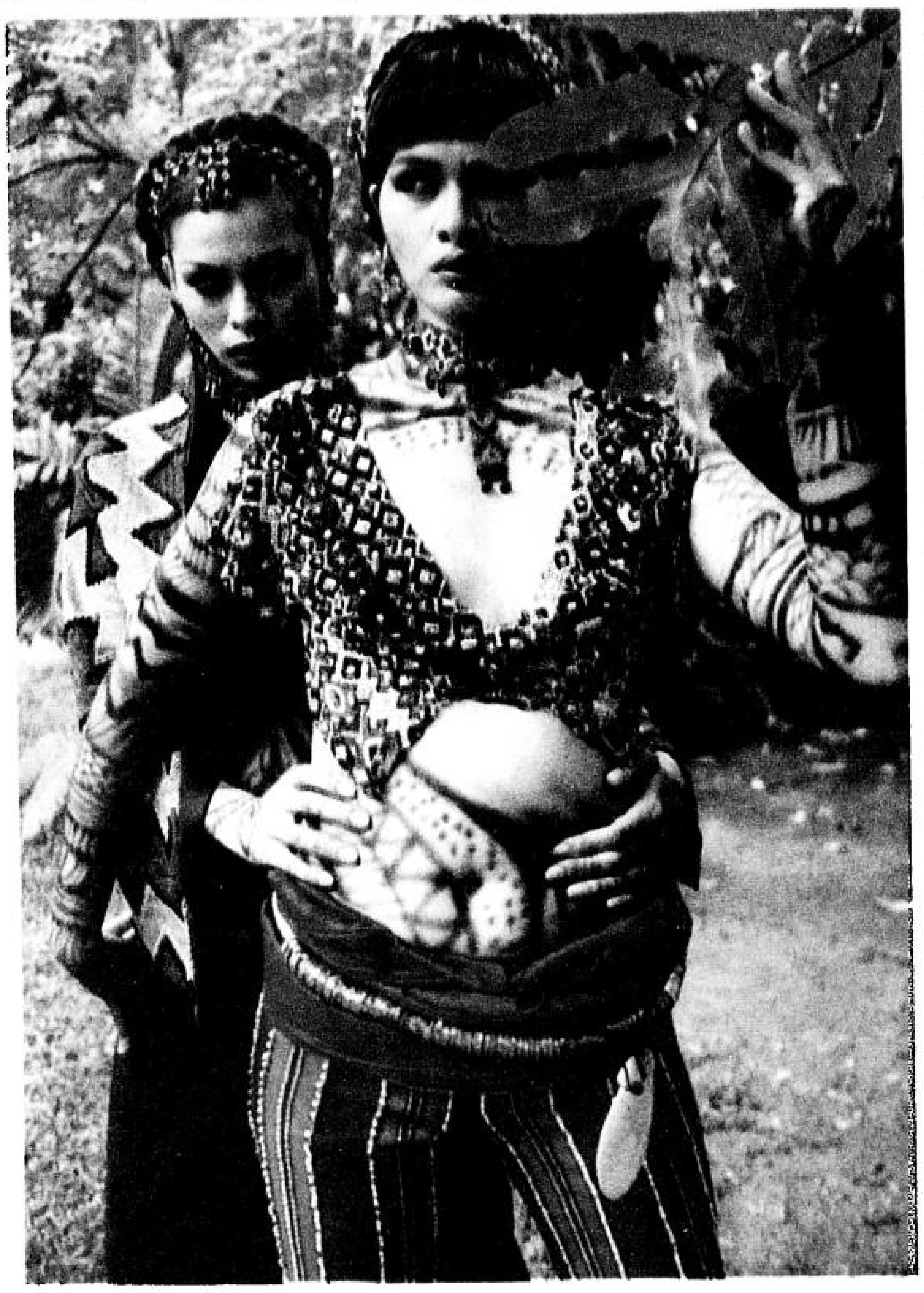
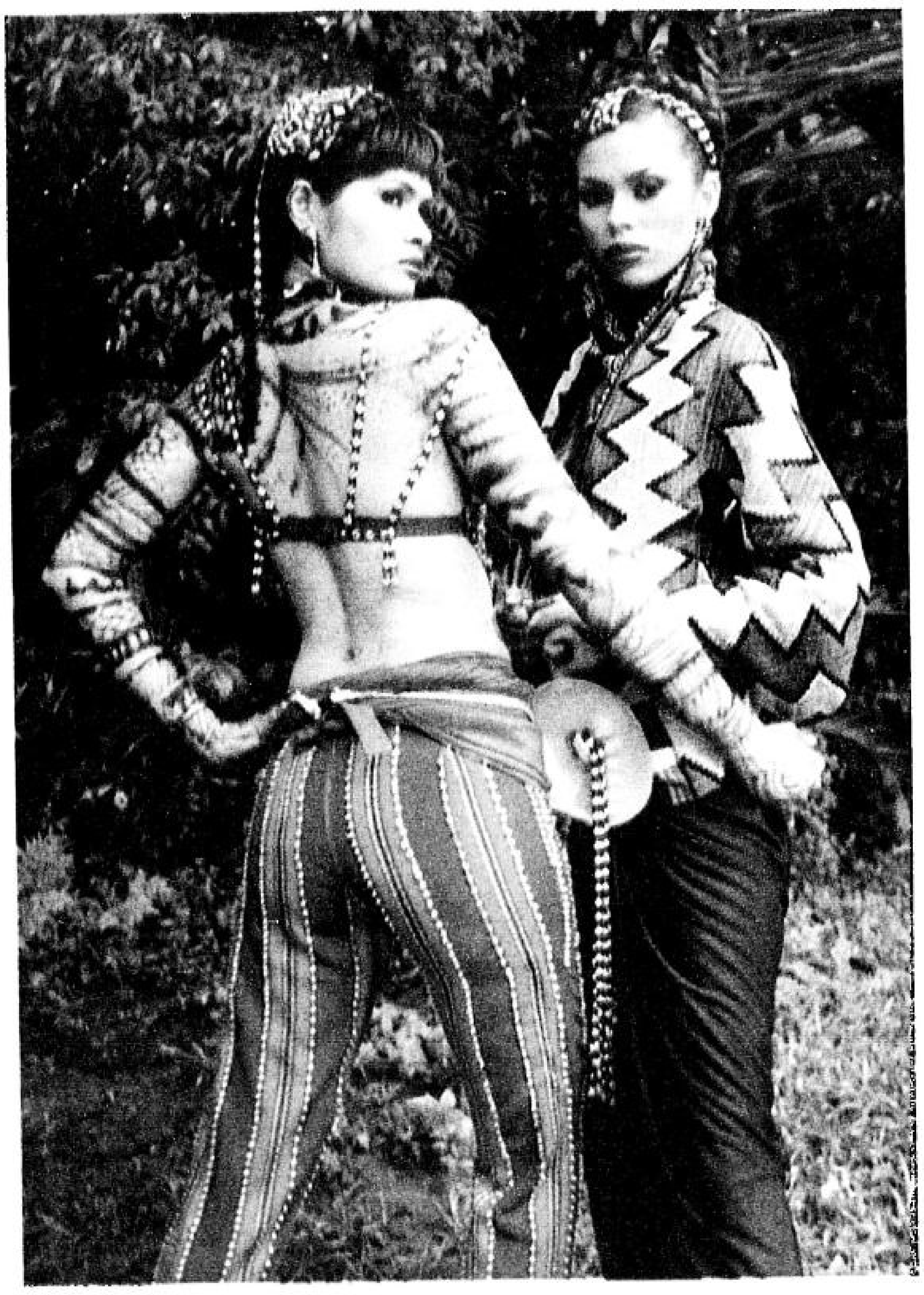


ERMA wears a Cordillera-beaded blouse and cigarette pants made from hand-woven fabric. The stripes are highlighted by coco, wooden and glass beads.



RAZELLE wears a zigzag jacket from Benguet with lycra draped skirt.

Eddie Baddeo's wild exotica

(From page D2)

the designs with beadwork so the clothes wouldn't look like folk costumes. Some fabrics were mixed with shantung, velvet and chiffon.

Cordillera

For this INQUIRER pictorial, Baddeo expands on the Cordillera concept. He adapts elements from the North such as tattoos, hand-woven fabrics and beaded accessories, and transforms them into evening glamour. The sophisticated city lady is meant to look like a mountain maiden. The fabrics are perked up with glass and coco beads, mother of pearl and bones. Native coasters were made into accessories.

Baddeo's fashion show and pictorial clothes are not for the timid. Yet he has clients who will snap up his designs and have them adjusted to their sizes. He also sobers up when designing real-life brides and debutants, and delivers elegant wearables.

For sensuality, photographer Wahoo Guerrero suggested tattoos. Airbrush artist Rommel "Kiss" Toledo inscribed tattoos on the models.

Although the prevalence of tattoo has dwindled in indigenous cultures, tattooing remains an exotic element in fashion. Once associated with goons, sailors, punks, rockers and bikers, it has become a status symbol of sorts among youthquakers.

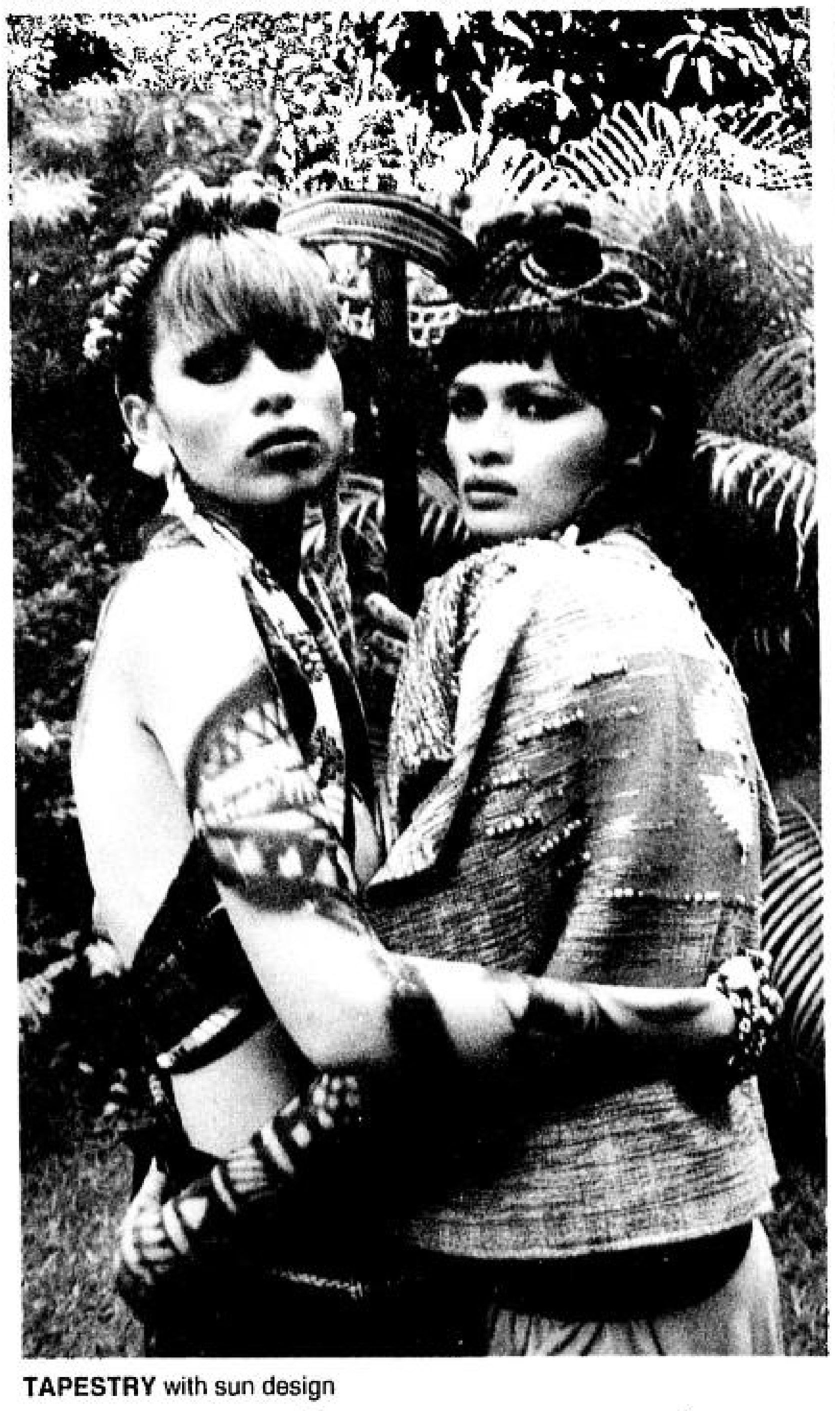
Tattooing is a form of "dress" that gives both a tag of identity and personal signature. It was popularized in western fashion in the '80s. The development of nonpermanent tattoos or transfers has removed some of the stigma attached to tattooing and transformed it into an element of chic fashion.

> His clothes are not for the timid. As Baddeo shows in this fashion exclusive for the INQUIRER, his imagination can hardly be characterized by faint-heartedness and temperance

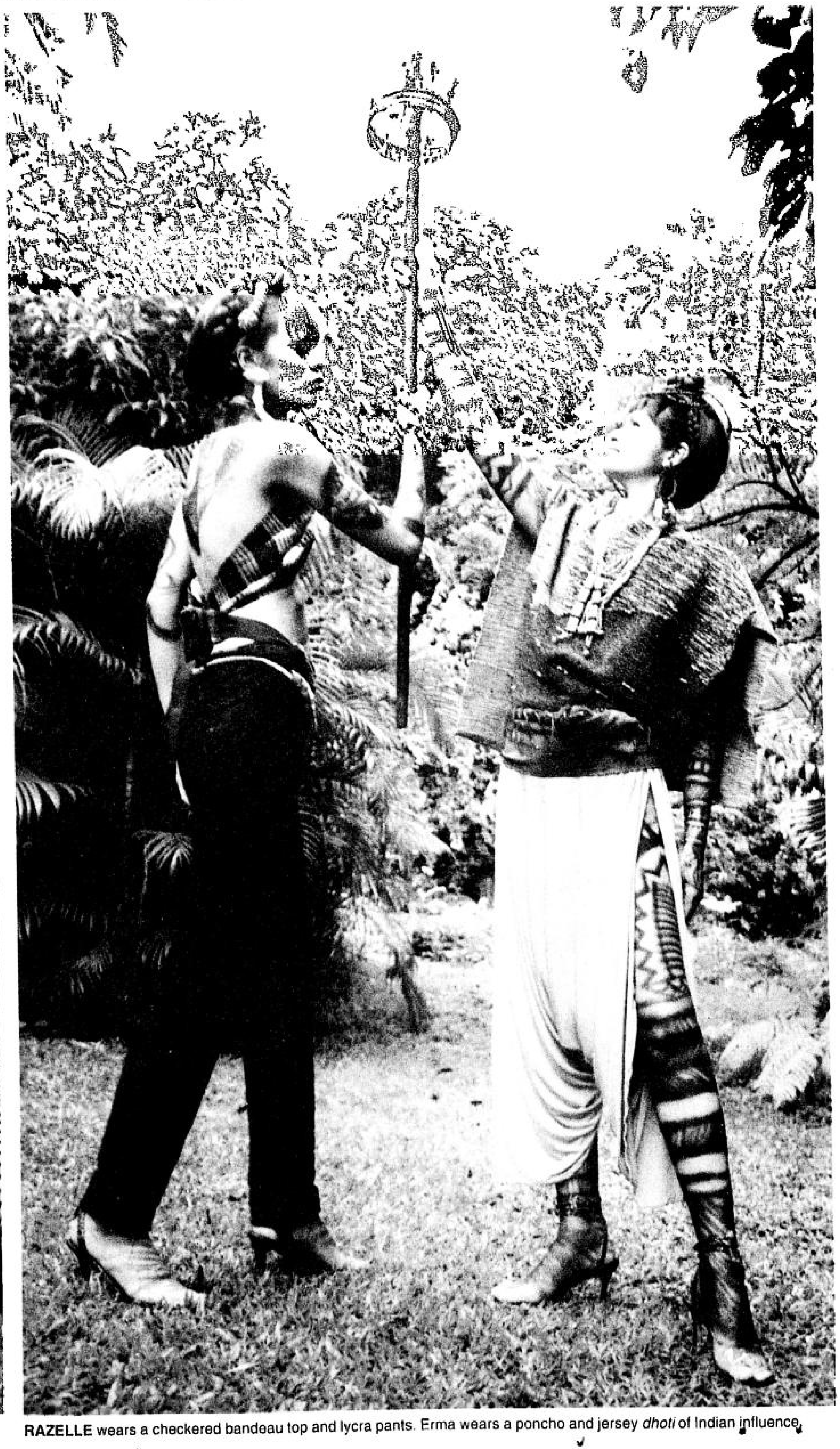
MODELS:
ERMA MAGLALANG,
RAZELLE ANDERSON,
MIKE TUPAS

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY
ERIC MANINGAT

TATTOOS BY
ROMMEL "KISS" TOLEDO
AND NOLI SALAS



TAPESTRY with sun design



RAZELLE wears a checkered bandeau top and lycra pants. Erma wears a poncho and jersey *dhoti* of Indian influence.

'Xtreme' games on today

GOINGS-ON

PHILIPS Consumer Electronics presents Philips "X-rage," a sports event featuring BMX, skateboarding and in-line skating, on May 18-20 at The Fort Summer Camp, Bonifacio Global City.

SCHOOL SEMINAR. Kalinangan Youth Foundation Inc., Calabarzon Chapter, holds a seminar on Introduction to College Life at 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. today, at Anihan School, Bo. Tulo, Calamba, Laguna. Dubbed "Uniprep," the seminar is designed to equip incoming female freshman students with the necessary skills and attitudes to enable them to make the most of their university life. Call (049) 545-2376/1884.

PETA SHOW. Performances of "Mga Kuwento ni Gabriel Garcia-Marquez," originally scheduled at the open-air theater of Peta's Rajah Sulayman, Fort Santiago, have been moved to the Cultural Center of the Philippines due to inclement weather. "Mga Kwento," stage adaptations of three short stories written by the master of magic realism and Colombian Nobel Prize winner, will be staged at CCP Rehearsal Hall, 7:30 p.m., on May 18, 19 and 20. It is a presentation of Dulaang Talyer featuring the alumni and students of Philippine High School for the Arts. Call 925-1933 or telefax 415-6786.

FREE ART WORKSHOP. Faber Castell holds a series of free art workshops for kids aged 7-11. Schedule of workshops: May 19, 2-5 p.m., Metropolitan Museum of Manila; May 25, 2-5 p.m., Museo Pambata; June 1, 2-5 p.m., Ayala Museum, Makati; June 2, 9 a.m.-12 nn, Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati. Artists and art educators Fernando B. Sena, Deon Nacario and To Austria will conduct the workshops. Interested children must present their school ID at the designated venues of the workshop. Call 361-7391/92/95/96.

CATERING SEMINAR. Pro-Active Center for Training conducts seminar-workshop on Managing a Catering Business on May 21-29, 1-5 p.m., at Triple V Express, 2/L Bridgeway, SM Megamall. Training will feature lectures and hands-on workshops on legal requirements, planning the menu, equipment and staffing, cost control, room arrangements, napkin folding and table skirting. Call 823-4947 or (0919) 550-0601.

AROMATHERAPY WORKSHOP. Madeleine Velasco, a pioneer in the use of aromatherapy in leading salon and spa, will hold a workshop on May 23 at Conference Room A, Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall. The morning workshop will tackle basic introduction on aromatherapy and its early beginnings, specific oils, applications and how it can upgrade a salon's service menu to world class standards. The afternoon session will provide a more in-depth look of aromatherapy, starting with a healthy lunch, followed by a "Clear Mind Session" to revitalize everyone's energy in preparation for the live demonstrations which will detail the step-by-step method of applying aromatherapy in the techniques of hair, hands, feet and nail care, facial, massage and other body treatments. Call 637-5411/12.

BRIDAL FAIR. Island Cove Resort will stage "Dream Weddings at the Cove," the second Cavite bridal festival, on May 25-27 at the resort's floating pavilions. The festival will showcase Island Cove's theme weddings and packages, as well as an open exhibit on bridal fashion, accessories, jewelry, photo and video services, cakes, souvenirs, floral arrangements and other bridal services.

THEATER WORKSHOP. After six weeks of intensive training in the arts, the summer workshoppers of Gantimpala Theater Foundation will hold its culminating activities on May 26 and 27. The combined classes of Children's Theater, Children's Ballet and Street Jazz with Voice and Singing will do their recital on May 26 and 27, 2 p.m., at the Storyland Theater, 4/F SM City Fairview. This recital will be followed by performances of Acting for TV, Movies and Commercials, Basic Acting, Street Jazz and Voice and Singing at 6 p.m. on both days, too. The De La Salle-Benilde basic acting classes will perform on May 26 and 27, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., at the Dance Studio, 4/F College of St. Benilde. Call 897-9986 or 895-8314.

TRADE EXHIBIT. Asian Pacific Exhibitors and Conferences and the Philippine International Trade Corp. and Philtrade Exhibits will hold a US Trade Expo on June 16-24 at the Civic Center Plaza in San Francisco, USA. The Asian Pacific Exhibitors is represented by Charo Yu, executive director of Mabuhay Heritage Foundation. This annual event will feature the best of Philippine products, including Filipiniana clothing and textiles, native handicrafts, handmade paper, native delicacies, processed food and beverages, fashion accessories, gifts and house décors. Diether Ocampo, Ai-Ai de las Alas, Arnel Ignacio and Freeverse will be the special guests of the event. Call Julie Carrion at 845-4366/67 or e-mail pitecsig@info.com.ph.

WRITING WORKSHOP. A new schedule for a writing workshop for children and young adults aged 8-18 has been set this month. Workshop includes techniques in discovering one's writing style, strengthening one's style and applying this style in various forms of communication; essay writing, feature writing, reviews of books, movies and musical concerts, journalism, short story writing and playwriting. Call 815-6925/4938 or visit Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati.

CONCERT. "Serenata sa Fort Santiago," an open-air brass band concert series, is held every Sunday, 4:30 p.m., at Plaza Moriones, Fort Santiago, Intramuros. The Philippine Navy Band will perform on May 20 and the MMDA 27th Lancer Drum and Bugle Corps on May 27. Call 527-2961/3138.

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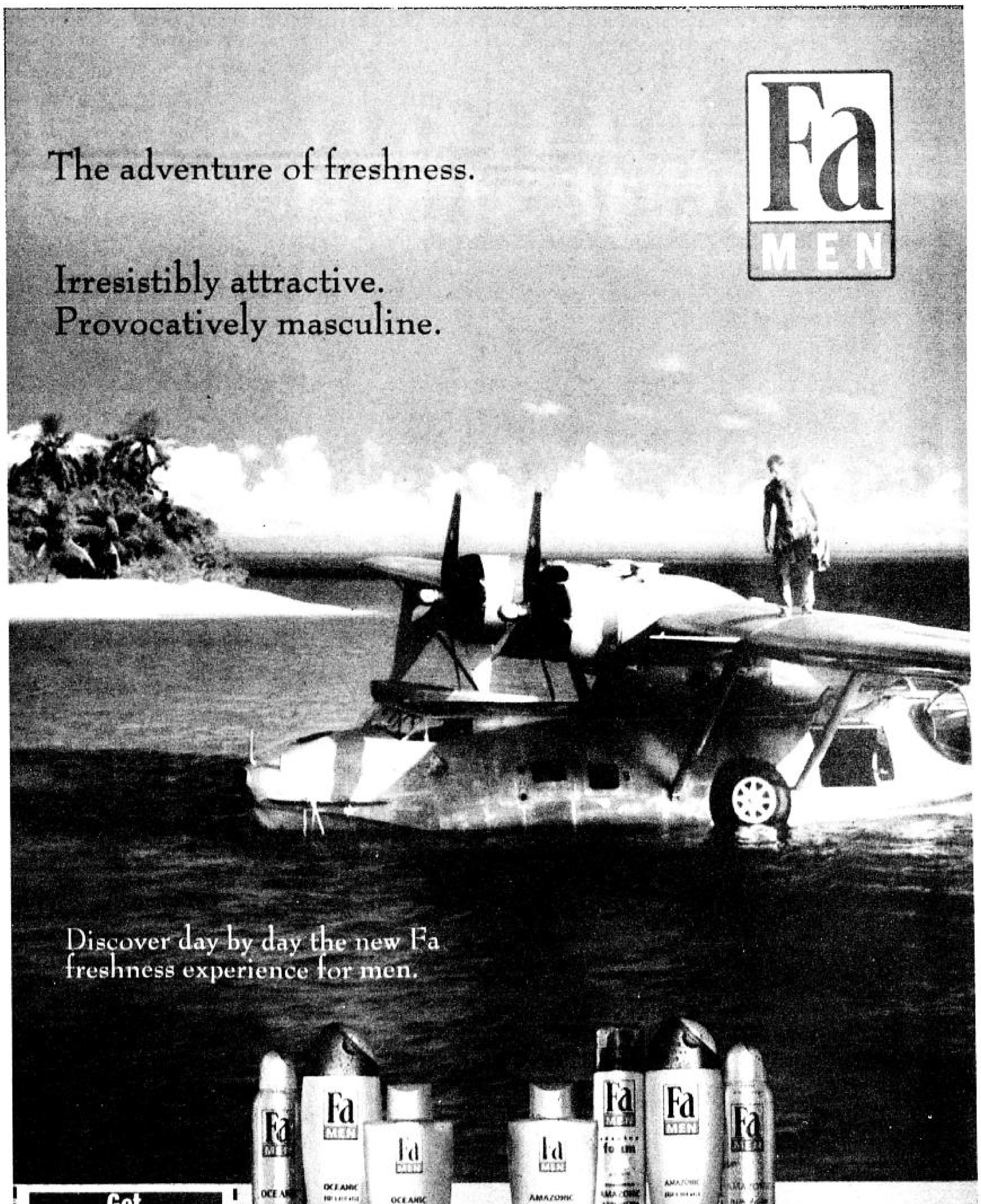
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Fashion without a sweat

With sporty fashion, you score a goal

By Camille T. Cruz
Photo by Raymond Lauchengco

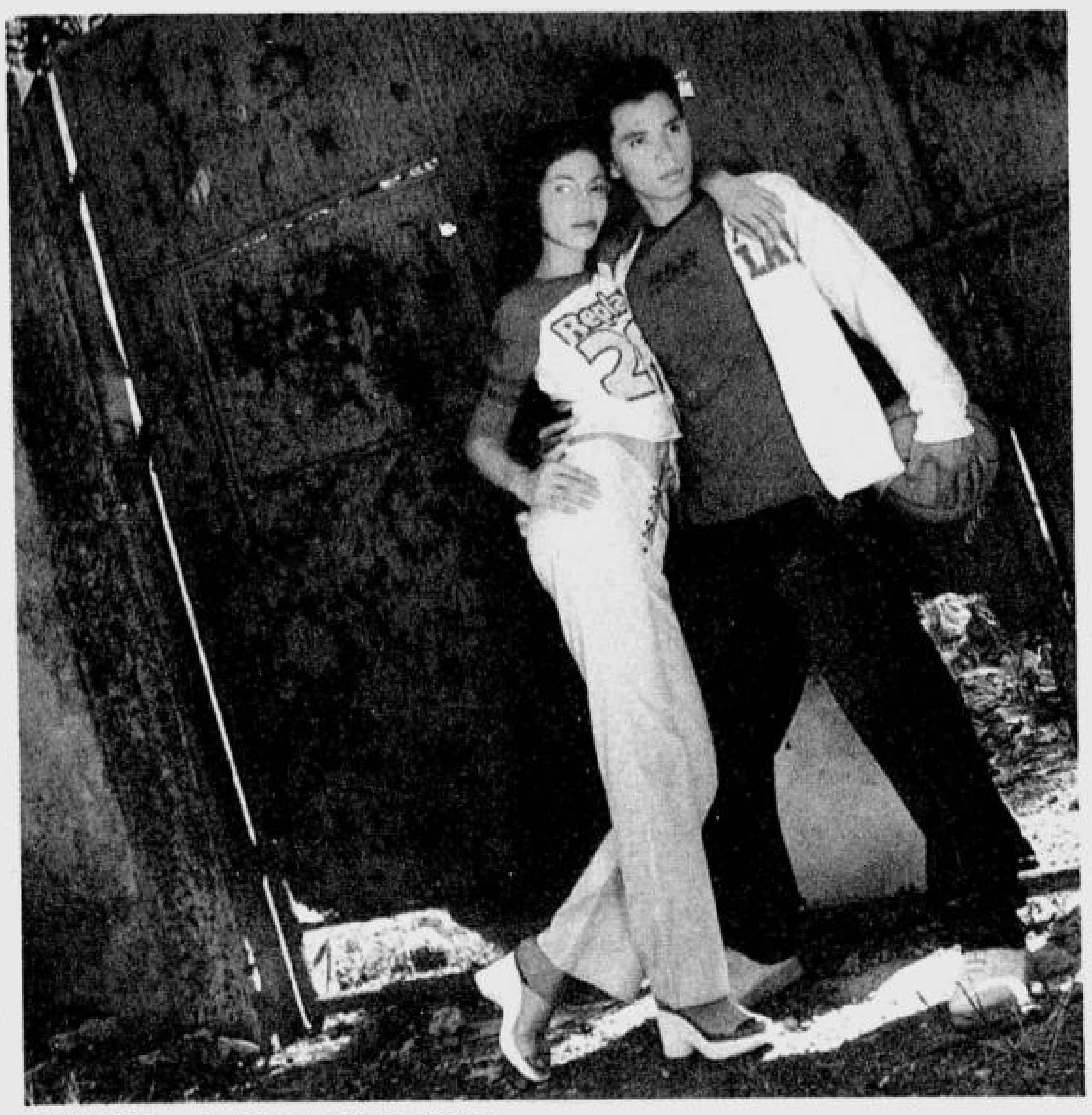
HAVING lost nearly a quarter of my body fluids over the past few days due to food poisoning, I was confined to my room, wrapped in fluffy bed sheets and forced to watch European football to while my sickness away.

I have never really taken to watching the Sports Channel, but I must confess I enjoyed watching European soccer players not only for their heroics, but also for their handsome and appealing looks. It must have been their dark brown hair and their tanned skin tone. To be sure, their sporty, carefree fashion can be seen nowadays in the attire of college kids.

Sport shirts are the comfortable choice of the new generation. They are light and carry an attitude. They are usually in solid colors, accented with logos or stripes on the shoulders, sleeves or front. They are usually worn with jeans, nicely flared for women and semi-loose fit for men. The fit of these T-shirts should be comfortably fit for women and not body-hugging for men.

T-shirts have been a popular favorite on one's closet checklist. They come in a variety and can replace the most hip of clothing when appropriately worn. Maybe you can turn to the Sports Channel for more sporty inspiration with your fashion.

E-mail the author at camille_cruz@hotmail.com



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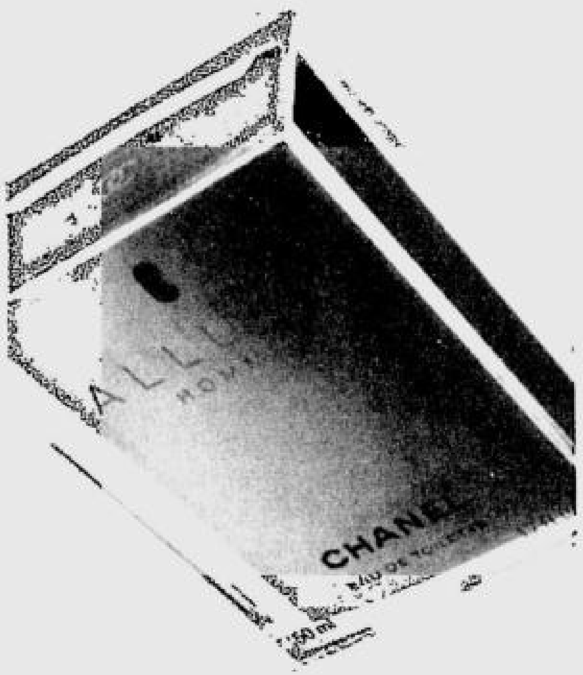

A man's essential travel companion

AIRPORT, office, gym, restaurant, Paris, Tokyo or New York—man is the new international roamer, the urban nomad and now elegant with the new Allure for Men travel spray from Chanel.

The Allure for Men spray is unbreakable and shock-resistant, with a compact shape that sits very comfortably in a man's hand, and a generously sized spray button for ease of use. The nonrefillable spray, an ideal 50 ml size, is presented in a champagne-colored metal casing, with strong tactile appeal in a transparent packaging.

Allure for Men is light and airy, and charged with energy. In the fresh facet, the green note is invigorating. The sensual facet contains the warmth of Tonka bean and labdanum. The woody facet, with Atlas cedar and vetiver, is powerful and masculine. The spicy facet introduces a surprising peppery accord.

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[1] Get 1,000 Asia Miles bonus if you enroll in Asia Miles on or before June 30, 2001.
[2] Your transaction slip will serve as your raffle coupon. One transaction slip = 1 raffle coupon

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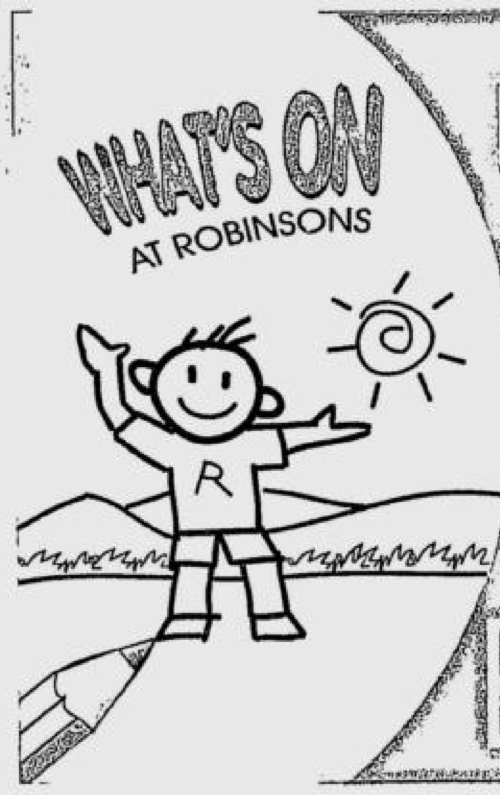

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Keeping current and ahead

By Marge C. Enriquez

AMID THE GLOOMY economic climate, Kamiseta, the popular clothing chain, posted a 56 percent increase in sales last year. It was a banner year, says Gonzalo "Gunn" Roque, president of Shoppes Manila, which manufactures Kamiseta and also holds the franchise of the French label Morgan de Toi.

During the first quarter of 2001, sales were up by nearly 30 percent. During Edsa II, sales doubled at Kamiseta's branch in Robinsons' Galleria.

While other retailers claim that their business is losing out to the *tiangges* or bargain stalls selling cheap imported clothes, Kamiseta is undaunted. Roque says that the business in the Shoppesville, the *tiangge* mecca, is brisk.

Roque attributes Kamiseta's success to constant product development and instincts. The creative team is forever open to currents to get leads for Kamiseta's design inspirations.

Not trendy

Kamiseta started out as a backyard business of Gonzalo's wife, Cristina, who now heads the creative team of the label. In 1992, Cris began with a small corner in a chain store. Her nook specialized in T-shirts with interesting details that clicked with the young customers. They had an international look, much like the $100-designer T-shirts in France.

Roque was her fiancé then. Coming from a family of garment exporters, he saw the business potential of Kamiseta. He suggested that she should establish a freestanding store and he would lend his expertise in manufacturing her designs.

Today, Kamiseta has 20 stores and has received many retail awards.

What makes Kamiseta tick? It doesn't follow trends. Customers won't see punk details such as studs and rivets or the military look. Roque says there are only a few pieces of the military look. "You don't really see many girls wearing it," he says. With perfect patterns and high-quality fabrics, who needs to follow trends?

Kamiseta's customers snap up just about every collection. Although the clothes may seem deceptively simple, a lot of effort goes into making them.

It all boils down to solid quality control. Roque's family made garments for famous imported labels. Not only did he acquire the technical savvy of these giant firms; he also learned the ins and outs of the business.

High standards

Roque says that some foreign brands want to get the most out of their investments by getting the cheapest fabrics and labor in Asian countries. Sometimes sub-contractors make the clothes to reduce costs. The irony is that the finished products are expensive.

"If you look at their garments, you realize that you're just paying for the name," he says. Roque believes in doing things the other way around—getting the best materials and the best hands.

The factories that make Kamiseta's clothes adhere to the standards of developed countries. Roque explains that garments for exports are the result of the assembly line technology. The workers specialize in making one part of the garment such as the plackets, sleeves and cuffs. If a sewer focuses on the collar every day, she could easily produce a perfect one in a few seconds.

In the Philippines, many factories have sewers who make the full blouse. The quality may not be consistent and precise.

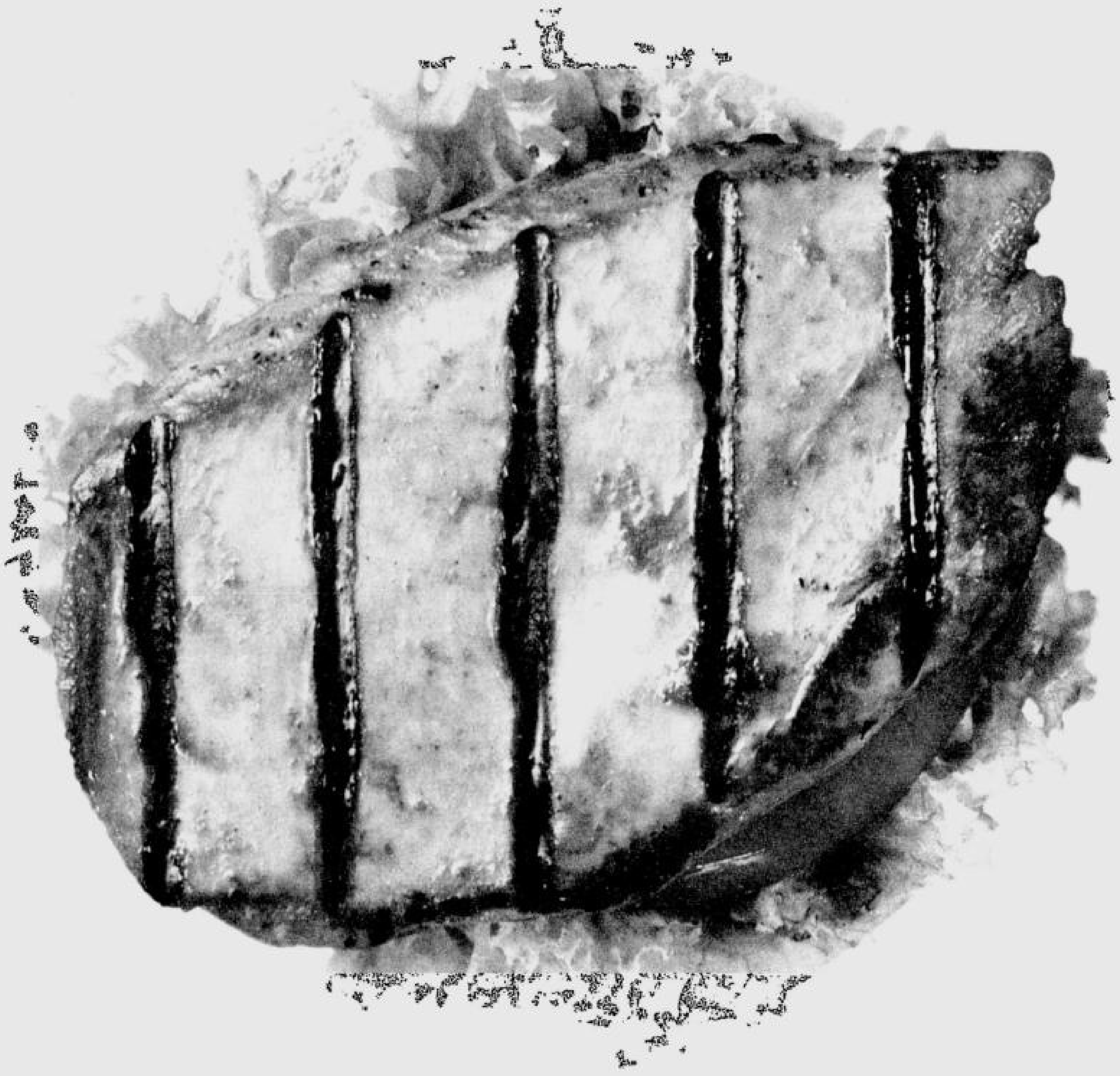
Roque sources fabrics from Europe. The denims come from the best sources in the world.

The clothes undergo rigid quality control. Roque says every process in making a garment is double-checked at least eight times from the moment the fabrics are spread out and cut until they are packaged.

'Lechon manok' syndrome

The stores constantly replenish their new stock so those customers keep coming back. To

KEEPING/ p.E2



We watch over our charbroiling so seriously, even the juices are locked-up.

Carl's Jr.
Serious. Delicious.

2nd Level Glorietta 4, Ayala Center • 2nd Floor Main Building, SM City North Edsa • 2nd Level New Wing Alabang Town Center • 3rd Floor Bridgeway, SM Megamall • Ground Level Robinson's Place Ermita • 2nd Level and Cinema Lobby Festival Mall, Filinvest-Alabang

AT A CAFÉ IN PIAZZA DELLA REPUBBLICA. Mai-Mai wears a knitted long-sleeved V-neck tee over an aquamarine single jersey sleeveless tee while China wears a green knitted, long-sleeved top.

MAI-MAI wears a white stretch cotton blouse under a navy knitted cardigan as she looks at the rushes of the Kamiseta commercial taken in Florence. Marissa Floirendo (left) directs the photography.

POLICE notices Mai-Ma and China in a red top-down Ferrari

Retail and fashion vanguard Kamiseta cannot go wrong with trendy product development, savvy marketing and affordable prices

Keeping current and ahead

CHINA waits for her sister at the Piazza Santa Croce. She wears a cotton tee with a gray cardigan draped over her shoulders and dark wash jeans.

(From page E1)

get direct feedback from customers, Kamiseta launched a website, which gets 2,000 hits a week. This development has spurred Kamiseta to go into e-commerce.

The store displays are also attention-grabbers to the extent that staffers sometimes catch competitors taking photographs or drawings of the merchandise. Eventually, the styles get copied. Although imitation is the best form of flattery, Roque is concerned that retailers acquire the "*lechon manok*" syndrome, wherein clothes become formulaic and most brands are indistinct as a result of complacency or laziness.

Roque adds that Kamiseta is also guided by its precept and advertising tagline, "It's fun being a girl!" The clothing concept revolves around the numerous possibilities that a girl can do with her wardrobe for such a low price.

Kamiseta's campaigns have enhanced their sales. The big billboards, TV commercials and store displays have made the market more aware of the brand. It was one of the first labels to hold pictorials in a foreign setting.

"I've always felt that Filipinos have good taste. If you see a Filipina abroad, you will notice that she's well dressed and made up," says Roque. Kamiseta aims to project that if the Filipina is chic here, she can look great anywhere.

Florence campaign

Since 1997, the company has had China Cojuangco as its image model. She has appeared in Kamiseta ads that were shot in Paris, New York and Australia. This year is Kamiseta's biggest campaign. It includes sister, Mai-Mai.

The team went to Florence where Mai-Mai is studying design. Marissa Floirendo directed the commercial. The company commissioned Jun de Leon for the pictorial and Henry Calayag for the makeup. The campaign will be launched in June. It will focus on the bonding of sisters. It will show them in cafés and various locations enjoying the activities together.

Despite the big advertising campaign and high production costs, Kamiseta keeps the prices modest. "The prices are low because we have kept a long-standing relationship with our suppliers," says Roque.

Even Kamiseta's clients who were teens before and are young mothers now have remained loyal to the brand.

ENJOYING gelato at Ponte Santa Trinita in Florence, Italy. China wears a Bordo stretch cotton blouse over a single jersey cotton tee and boot-cut denims. Mai-Mai wears a purple quarter-length-sleeved over a white ribbed cotton tee and and dark denims.

Vivienne Tam's oriental statement

A coffee-table book makes an exotic case of the Chinese-American designer's cultural and fashion roots

China Chic
By Vivienne Tam and Martha Elizabeth Huang
Regan Books, 314 pages

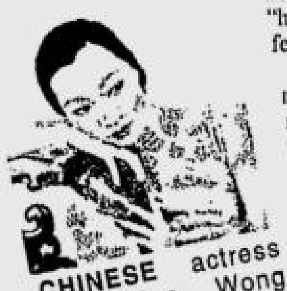
BY CHERISH GARCIA-HERNANDEZ

REVIEW

I HAVE always liked Vivienne Tam's designs. Aside from the fact that her clothes ran in small sizes, which meant they fit the petite Asian figure to a T, they have a sexy ethereal quality. She successfully blends the looks of East and West and manages to give them a funky edge. For instance, she updates the cheongsam by using stretched mesh material instead of the usual silk. She pushes the envelope further by silk-screening cartoon images of Mao Zedong. (Tam also talks of the difficulty in having this done, as no one in Hong Kong would agree to print such images.)

Now the designer attempts to translate her vision further through the coffee-table book "China Chic." But this is a coffee-table book with substance. You will actually read it. It is a lavishly illustrated visual memoir of Tam's observations as well as reminiscences, of growing up in Hong Kong. The dichotomy is clear—Chinese parents with Chinese beliefs and sensibilities, with a child who studied in a Catholic school in a British colony that was, in her own words a "hybrid" of two very different worlds.

The richness of Chinese culture from their rituals to their food is evident in Tam's ruminations. The influence is so obvious that it comes as no surprise that after moving to New York, she continuously went back to her roots for inspiration. Tam confesses to buying everything vintage that she could on many trips to Mainland China and Hong Kong. As Tam points out, "China has always been a very fashion-driven country. Where else could one man tell over one billion people what to wear?" And yet, she notes that even when all of China was in the same drab, regulation uniform, it would not be unusual to see a bright red sock peeking out.



CHINESE actress Ana Mae Wong made it in Hollywood.

Insights

Each chapter of the book offers an insight into various aspects of Chinese culture from food, furniture, art, and, of course, fashion. Tam even gives the reader interesting tidbits from a historical perspective. She tells us that the cheongsam was actually a man's outfit, and women started wearing them in the early '20s to assert their equality. This is a bit ironic since the cheongsam has evolved into a very restrictive kind of clothing that actually emphasizes femininity by allowing only the tiniest of steps and by showing off every curve. The origins of the Mao jacket are equally fascinating. According to Tam, the cut is based on the SunYat-sen suit, named after the founder of the Chinese republic. Sun, however, seems to have copied it from the Japanese schoolboy uniforms and the Japanese got the idea from what the Germans wore to college.

As if to punctuate her essays, Tam includes interviews with a variety of Chinese figures including a doctor, a filmmaker and a performance artist. Their own views seem to reinforce hers and somehow seem to add another layer to the text. The bright visual images are in the book range from Mao propaganda kitsch to Western-influenced Chinese calendar art. The result is a modern pop-art effect.

Invasion

The craze for all things Oriental seems to invade the West at regular intervals. In the '60s, Suzy Wong turned women on to the cheongsam and later in the '90s, Christian Lacroix had his own take on it as well. On the other hand, designers like Armani and Donna Karan had their own versions of the Mao jacket. The legendary Ballet Russe had all of Paris obsessed with *orientalia* in the early part of the 20th century, and this later had a big influence on designers like Yves Saint Laurent. Tam's designs are not overtly oriental. In fact, if one analyzes them, there is nothing specifically oriental about them. And yet they look exotic because of her use of vivid colors. Her designs are so popular that celebrities like Julia Roberts and Jennifer Aniston have worn them.

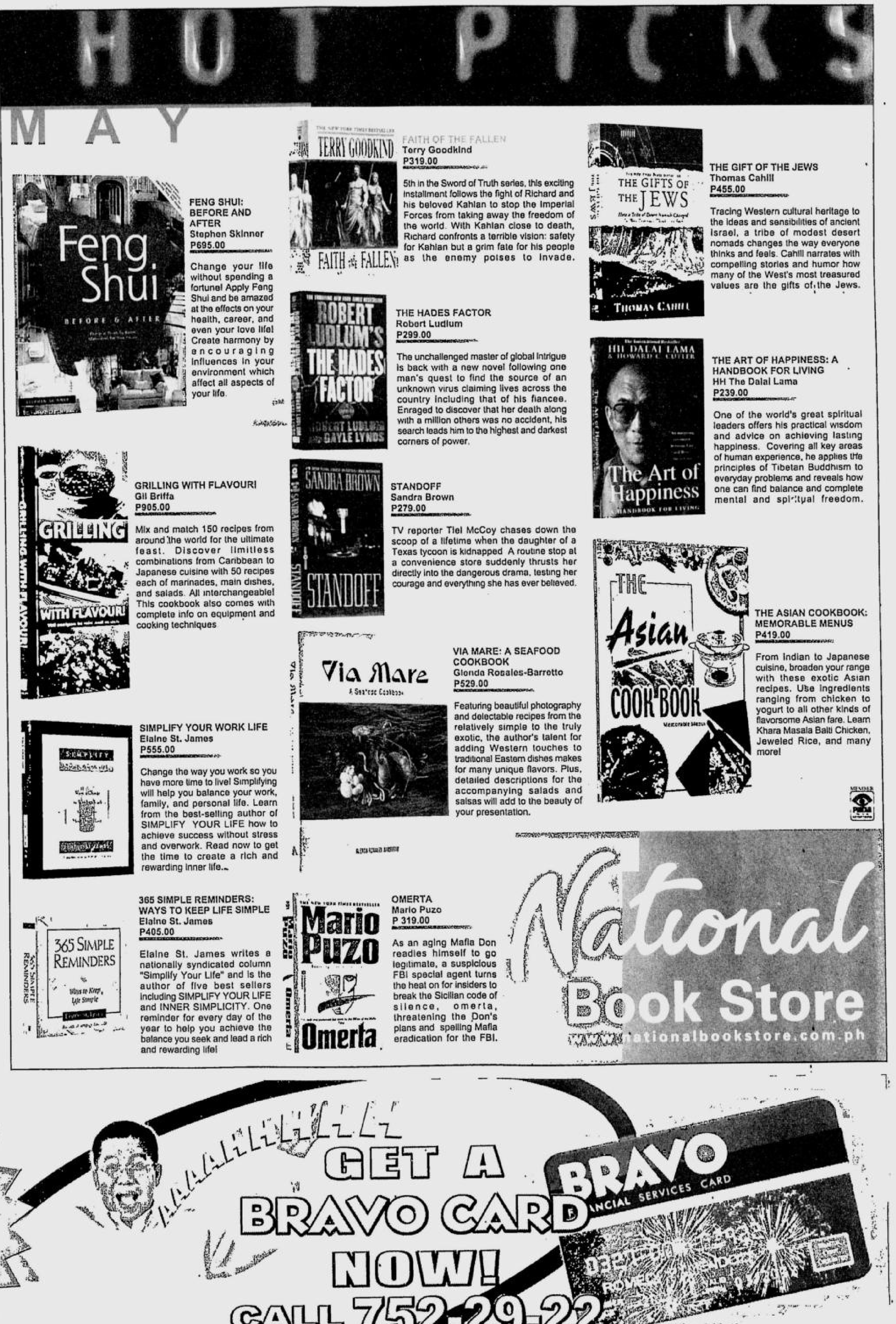
Tam's intelligence and innate wit is evident both in her writing and in her designs. This could explain why she is so successful as compared to, lets say, the label Shanghai Tang. Her clothes are well thought of, not just in the construction, but in their design as well. The East-West thing is innate. To consciously try to capture it would only come out looking trite. Maybe one has to have grown up "Chinglish," as Tam would say.

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com.

DESIGNER fuses East and West.

TRADITIONAL costume

THE WORLD OF SUZY WONG. The Westerners' impression of Chinese women



HOT PICKS
MAY

FENG SHUI: BEFORE AND AFTER
Stephen Skinner
P695.00
Change your life without spending a fortune! Apply Feng Shui and be amazed at the effects on your health, career, and even your love life! Create harmony by encouraging influences in your environment which affect all aspects of your life.

FAITH OF THE FALLEN
Terry Goodkind
P319.00
5th in the Sword of Truth series, this exciting installment follows the fight of Richard and his beloved Kahlan to stop the Imperial Forces from taking away the freedom of the world. With Kahlan close to death, Richard confronts a terrible vision: safety for Kahlan but a grim fate for his people as the enemy poises to invade.

THE GIFT OF THE JEWS
Thomas Cahill
P455.00
Tracing Western cultural heritage to the ideas and sensibilities of ancient Israel, a tribe of modest desert nomads changes the way everyone thinks and feels. Cahill narrates with compelling stories and humor how many of the West's most treasured values are the gifts of the Jews.

THE HADES FACTOR
Robert Ludlum
P299.00
The unchallenged master of global intrigue is back with a new novel following one man's quest to find the source of an unknown virus claiming lives across the country including that of his fiancee. Enraged to discover that her death along with a million others was no accident, his search leads him to the highest and darkest corners of power.

THE ART OF HAPPINESS: A HANDBOOK FOR LIVING
HH The Dalai Lama
P239.00
One of the world's great spiritual leaders offers his practical wisdom and advice on achieving lasting happiness. Covering all key areas of human experience, he applies the principles of Tibetan Buddhism to everyday problems and reveals how one can find balance and complete mental and spiritual freedom.

GRILLING WITH FLAVOUR!
Gil Briffa
P905.00
Mix and match 150 recipes from around the world for the ultimate feast. Discover limitless combinations from Caribbean to Japanese cuisine with 50 recipes each of marinades, main dishes, and salads. All interchangeable! This cookbook also comes with complete info on equipment and cooking techniques

STANDOFF
Sandra Brown
P279.00
TV reporter Tiel McCoy chases down the scoop of a lifetime when the daughter of a Texas tycoon is kidnapped A routine stop at a convenience store suddenly thrusts her directly into the dangerous drama, testing her courage and everything she has ever believed.

THE ASIAN COOKBOOK: MEMORABLE MENUS
P419.00
From Indian to Japanese cuisine, broaden your range with these exotic Asian recipes. Use ingredients ranging from chicken to yogurt to all other kinds of flavorsome Asian fare. Learn Khara Masala Balti Chicken, Jeweled Rice, and many more!

VIA MARE: A SEAFOOD COOKBOOK
Glenda Rosales-Barretto
P529.00
Featuring beautiful photography and delectable recipes from the relatively simple to the truly exotic, the author's talent for adding Western touches to traditional Eastern dishes makes for many unique flavors. Plus, detailed descriptions for the accompanying salads and salsas will add to the beauty of your presentation.

SIMPLIFY YOUR WORK LIFE
Elaine St. James
P555.00
Change the way you work so you have more time to live! Simplifying will help you balance your work, family, and personal life. Learn from the best-selling author of SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE how to achieve success without stress and overwork. Read now to get the time to create a rich and rewarding inner life.

365 SIMPLE REMINDERS: WAYS TO KEEP LIFE SIMPLE
Elaine St. James
P405.00
Elaine St. James writes a nationally syndicated column "Simplify Your Life" and is the author of five best sellers including SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE and INNER SIMPLICITY. One reminder for every day of the year to help you achieve the balance you seek and lead a rich and rewarding life!

OMERTA
Mario Puzo
P 319.00
As an aging Mafia Don readies himself to go legitimate, a suspicious FBI special agent turns the heat on for insiders to break the Sicilian code of silence, omerta, threatening the Don's plans and spelling Mafia eradication for the FBI.

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Mix and match bridal wear

BY MARGIE ESTRELLA
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

AH, the wedding dress. The aggravation of spending months finding the right designer and getting fitted week after week is nothing compared to the joy of finally being able to walk down that aisle looking like goddess. On that blessed event, pictures will be taken all throughout the ceremony and that videographer who swore to be barely noticeable will break his promise. But that's all right, for when will anyone see that gorgeous ensemble ever again except in an album or a videotape?

It's such a shame that something as stunning as a wedding dress usually ends up tucked away in some hope chest until someone from another generation asks to see it. It is the one dress that fits absolutely the wearer. It is perhaps the dress where a woman truly radiates both her inner and outer beauty. As for the price that's being paid for such a dress, wouldn't it be better if it could be used again? Rajo Laurel answers the question with his designs.

Wedding clothes need not have such short shelf lives. They can be fashionable, in and out of marrying season

Multifunctional

Laurel's show during the bridal fair at the Hyatt last May 11 demonstrated that a wedding dress does not have to be a dress; it may also be a skirt paired with a sleeveless top; it may even be a pair of pants with a jacket.

A little drab? Laurel's collection is everything but that. His play of details still leaves every article of clothing looking impressive, whether it is the scalloped design on a bodice or the perfectly placed crystal beads on a sleeved silver top. He is able to find the balance between simplicity and elegance.

It is precisely this balance that allows garments to be multifunctional.

Style is essential when it comes to mixing and matching. The more versatile the style, the easier it will be to pair the article of clothing with something already owned. During the show, there were several pieces that could easily be paired with a woman's current wardrobe like a long coat or free-flowing slacks. There were also other pieces that could be worn again in a formal affair such as a tulle skirt or a satin top with wide cuffs.

Change of scenery

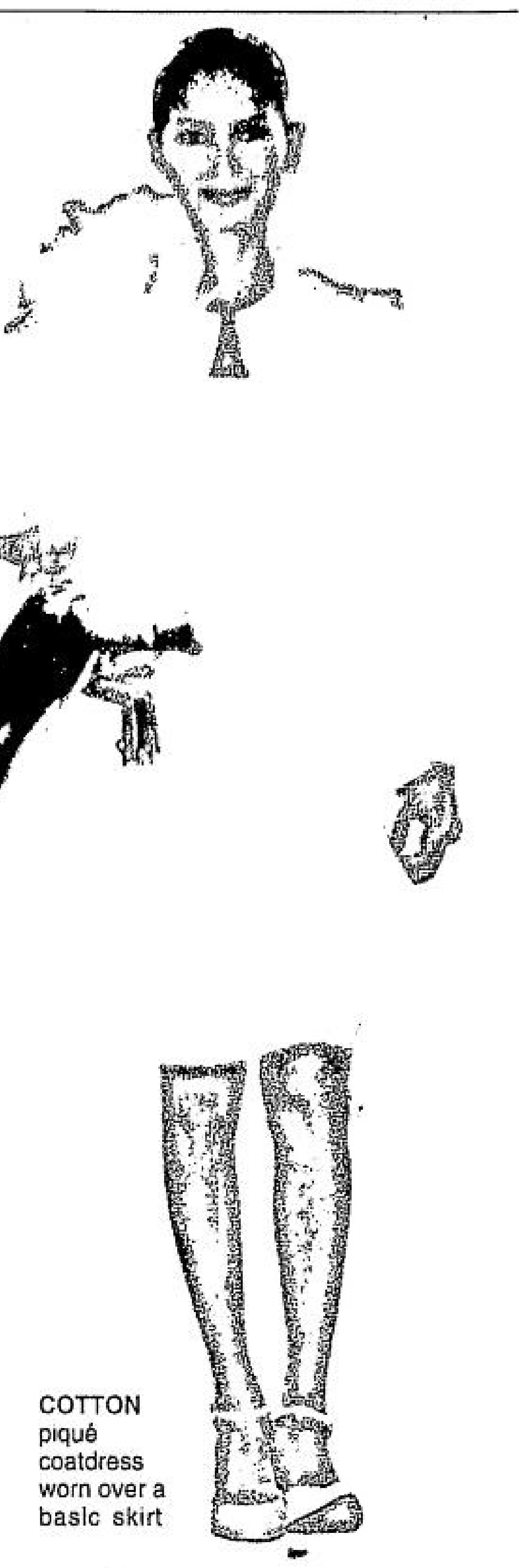
Philippine weddings are starting to become smaller and more intimate.

Slowly, the grand wedding with countless guests is becoming less common. Out-of-town churches and ocean-side receptions are replacing the traditional local church weddings and hotel receptions.

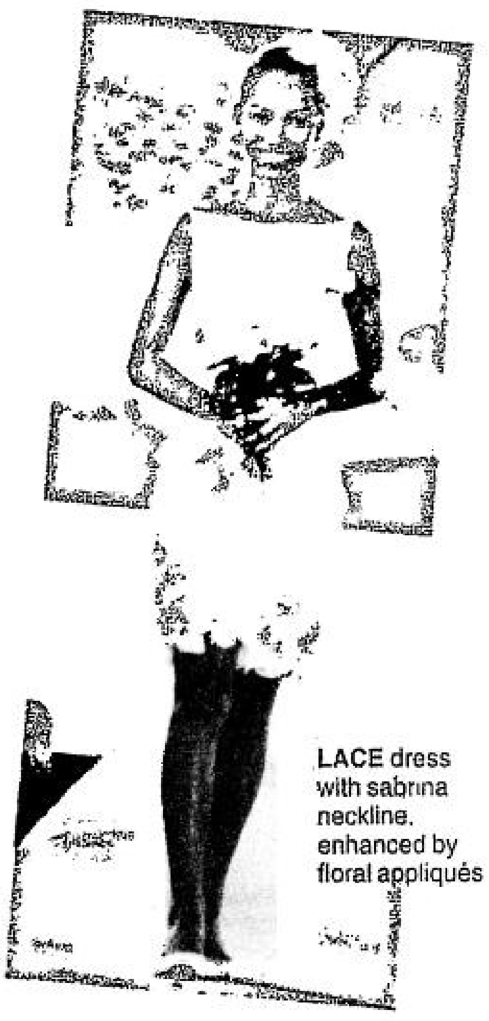
"There is a change of aesthetics, and therefore other alternatives need to be created," says Laurel. And create he definitely can do.

His dresses and separates are still considered high-end couture. This is rightly so, for many of his clientele can easily land on the society pages. There is no scrimping of material, no shortcut.

Yet Laurel gives his clients options in

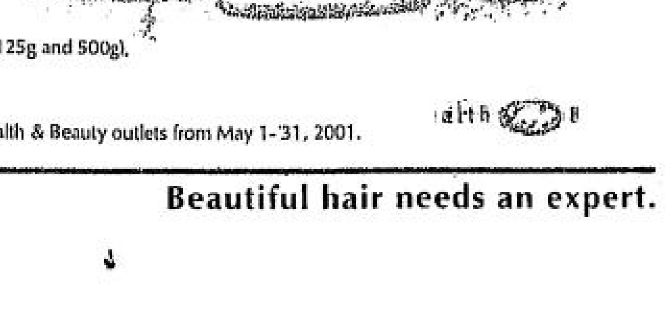


COTTON piqué coatdress worn over a basic skirt



LACE dress with sabrina neckline. enhanced by floral appliqués

MOCK turtle-neck dress worn over a lace skirt with a grosgrain ribbon and leaf appliques



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SHAMPOO
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FRUIT WAXES

Blowdrying, frequent brushing and everyday exposure to the elements can leave your hair dry, dull and lifeless.

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A natural ingredient found in the peel of fruits like apples, grapes and oranges, the fruit waxes blended in the new Wella Balsam Shampoo contains microcrystals that coat each hair strand. These help protect your hair against damage from the sun, wind and the stresses of your daily routine. So your hair grows healthy with a lively, lustrous shine.

Get the protective wash and wax treatment of new Wella Balsam Shampoo with Natural Fruit Waxes, and let nothing harm your hair.

Available in shampoo and conditioner (100 and 200mL) and Intensive Conditioning Treatment (125g and 500g).

Watch out for the new Wella Balsam Shampoo with Natural Fruit Waxes Mall Tour at all SM Health & Beauty outlets from May 1-31, 2001.

WELLA
Beautiful hair needs an expert.

which his clothes can be worn over. His wedding pieces will not only be remembered when they were first worn. They will be ready for the future when the bride decides to don them again—for other things.

Full benefit

Maximizing clothing is very important for the woman of today. Having a closet full of "once-only" outfits just ends up cluttering her living space. Why retain clothes that can be worn only once when women have so many events to go to?

This is not to say that one shouldn't splurge on an amazing dress. By all means, go and spend on a dress if it looks great. Having multifunctional clothes also saves one the hassle of wracking one's brains on what to wear in important events.

How can one extend the social life of bridal clothes? Laurel gives us a couple of suggestions from his show. Instead of wearing a full dress, one can wear a pair of pants under a sheer skirt to give it a more fluid look. After the wedding, remove the sheer skirt and wear just the pants. A white feminine jacket can be worn again over black slacks or even stretch denim jeans for a dressy casual affair.

Wedding clothes need not be white or ivory always. They can be a subtle periwinkle or for those who crave the limelight, a dramatic red (as seen on Antoinette Enciso). But for those who are partial toward white, white gowns with simple designs may be dyed to another color after the wedding.

Bridesmaids can go even further with their dresses since they are usually more colorful and less dressy than the bridal attire. Normally bridesmaids' clothes can be worn again to another formal affair such as another wedding, an awarding ceremony and a formal dinner.

But these garments can also be altered to suit more casual events. One classic way to fix a dress is to shorten the hemline. By bringing the hem up a couple of inches, the dress can be worn out at night without having people say, "Where'd you come from?" or "What's the special occasion?"

Separates like a halter-top and decorative long skirt can be easily dressed down with other clothes. A simple tank top looks great with a fancy skirt because the focus is immediately on the skirt and not on the entire ensemble, therefore creating an overall look that's stylishly put together. Even a bridesmaid's shawl can turn into an eye-catching sarong for the beach.

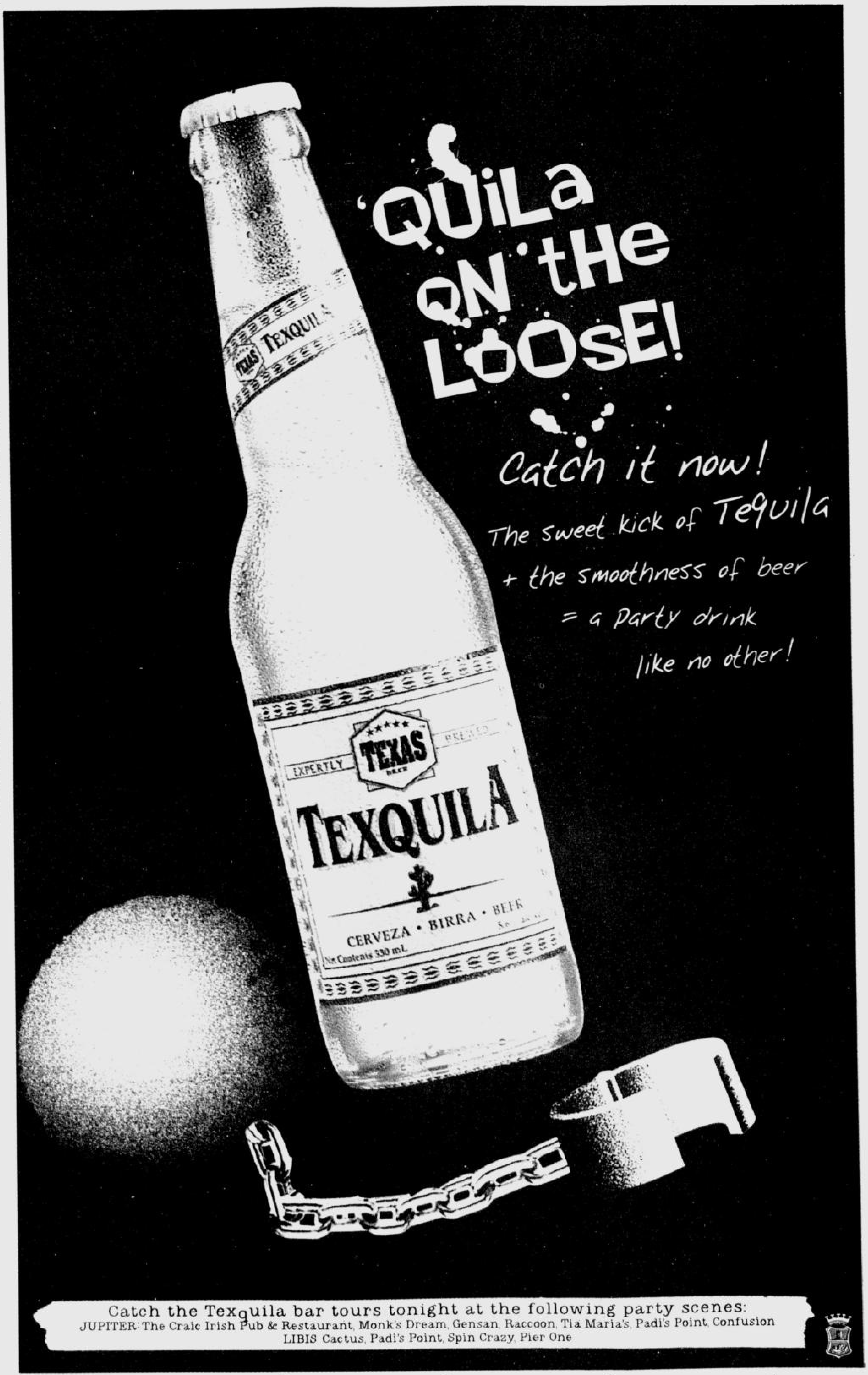
So now that the options have been laid out, what's next? Get married? Nah, just beg one of your friends to get married so you can be included in the entourage. In the meantime, take into consideration that multifunction wear doesn't have to be basic; it can stand out and still be versatile. Remember, it's not just what you wear but how you wear it.

JUSI tie-front blouse and re-embroidered satin skirt

CREPE tunic jacket and jersey pants, accented with silk flowers

BIANCA Araneta wears a paper silk dress with paint splashes.

LACE gown with nude lining, accented with silk flowers


'QUILa ON tHe LOOSE!
Catch it now!
The sweet kick of Tequila
+ the smoothness of beer
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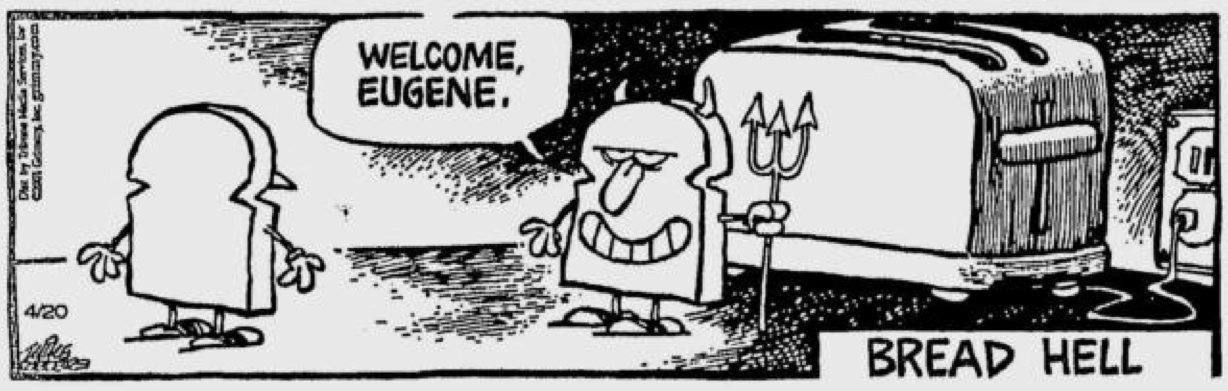
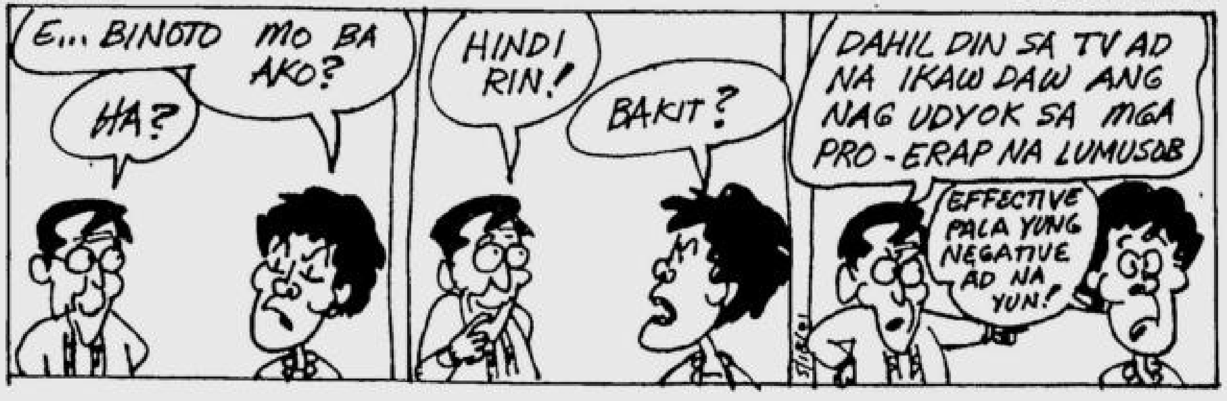
LIBIS Cactus, Padi's Point, Spin Crazy, Pier One

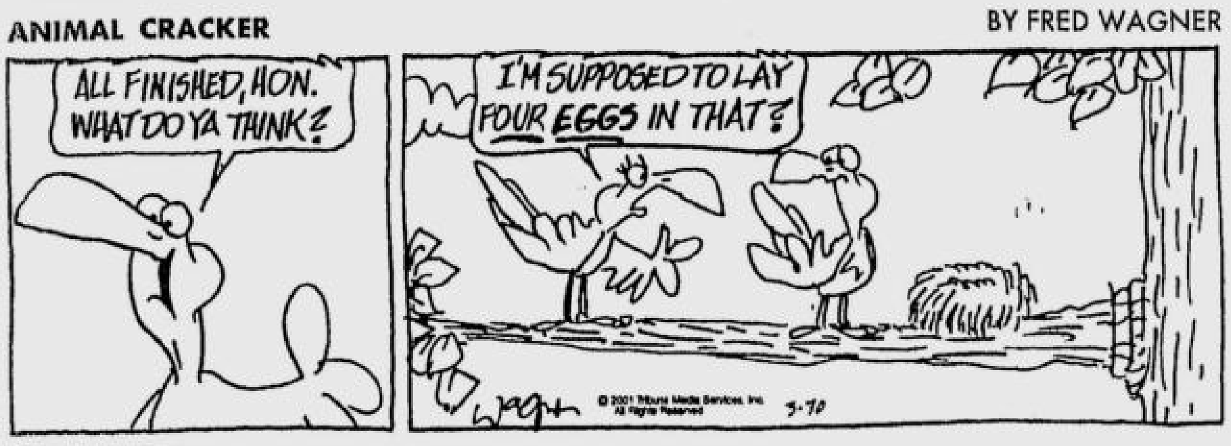
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
BY MIKE PETERS


WELCOME, EUGENE.
BREAD HELL
4/20

A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


E... BINOTO MO BA AKO?
HA?
HINDI RIN!
BAKIT?
DAHIL DIN SA TV AD NA IKAW DAW ANG NAG UDYOK SA MGA PRO-ERAP NA LUMUSOB
EFFECTIVE PALA YUNG NEGATIVE AD NA YUN!

ANIMAL CRACKER
BY FRED WAGNER


ALL FINISHED, HON. WHAT DO YA THINK?
I'M SUPPOSED TO LAY FOUR EGGS IN THAT?
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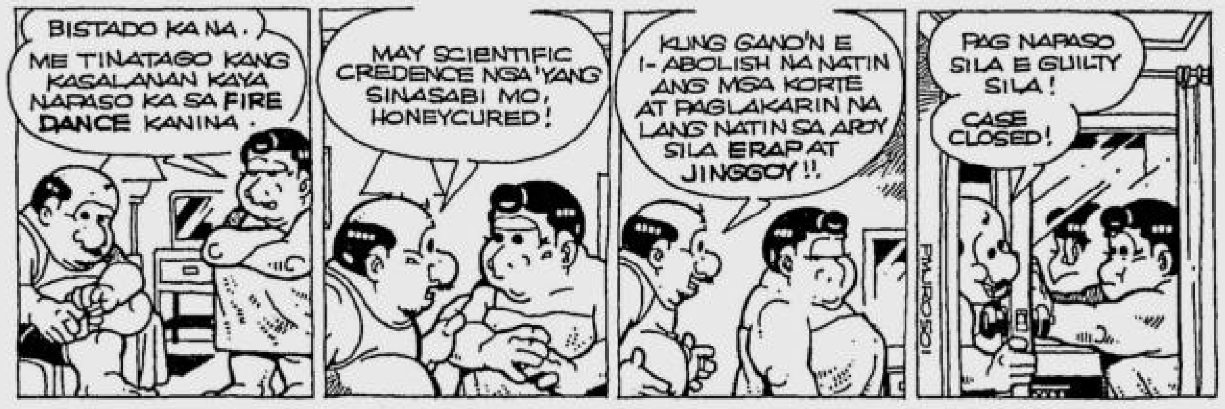
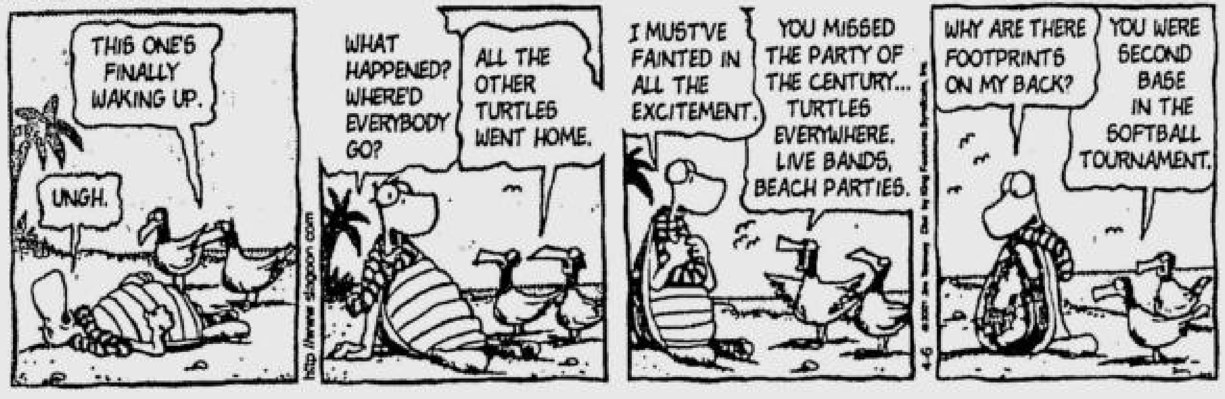
3-70

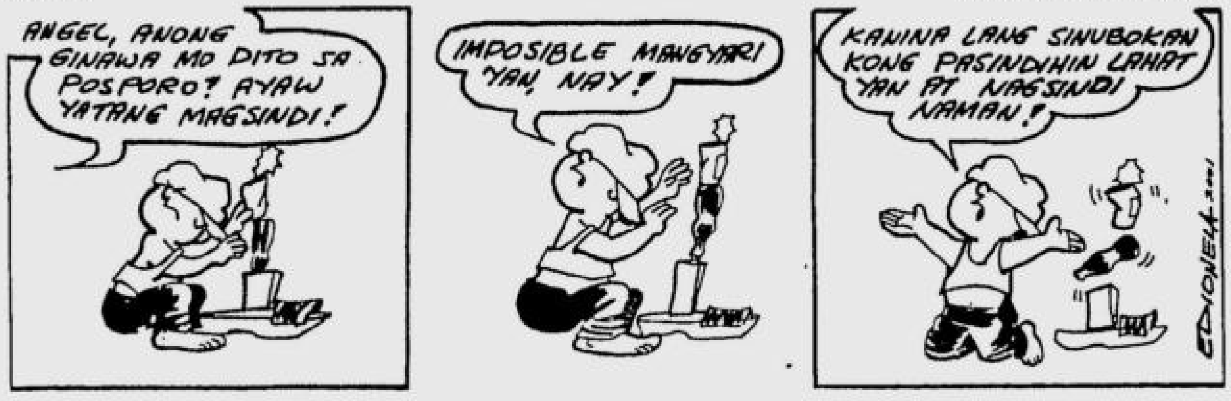
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


BISTADO KA NA.
ME TINATAGO KANG KASALANAN KAYA NAPASO KA SA FIRE DANCE KANINA.
MAY SCIENTIFIC CREDENCE NGA'YANG SINASABI MO, HONEYCURED!
KUNG GANO'N E I-ABOLISH NA NATIN ANG MGA KORTE AT PAGLAKARIN NA LANG NATIN SA APOY SILA ERAP AT JINGGOY!!
PAG NAPASO SILA E GUILTY SILA!
CASE CLOSED!
PMJR0501

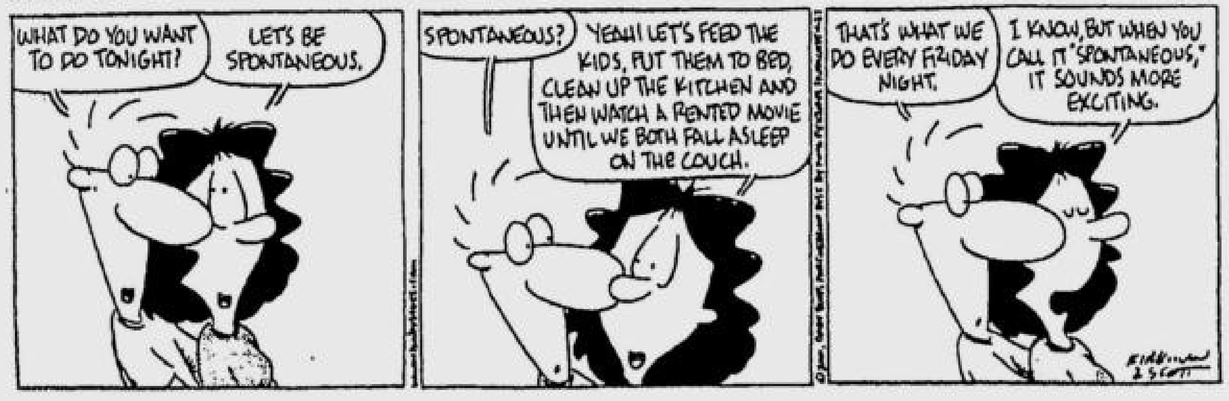
SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY


THIS ONE'S FINALLY WAKING UP.
UNGH.
WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'D EVERYBODY GO?
ALL THE OTHER TURTLES WENT HOME.
I MUST'VE FAINTED IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT.
YOU MISSED THE PARTY OF THE CENTURY... TURTLES EVERYWHERE. LIVE BANDS, BEACH PARTIES.
WHY ARE THERE FOOTPRINTS ON MY BACK?
YOU WERE SECOND BASE IN THE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT.
http://www.slagoon.com

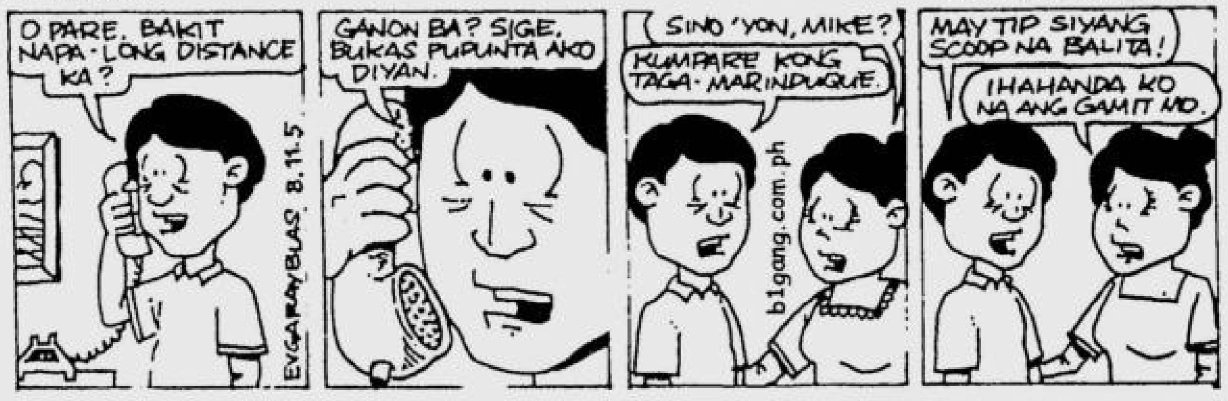
SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANGEL, ANONG GINAWA MO DITO SA POSPORO? AYAW YATANG MAGSINDI!
IMPOSIBLE MANGYARI YAN, NAY!
KANINA LANG SINUBOKAN KONG PASINDIHIN LAHAT YAN AT NAGSINDI NAMAN!
EDIONELA 2001

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT?
LET'S BE SPONTANEOUS.
SPONTANEOUS?
YEAH! LET'S FEED THE KIDS, PUT THEM TO BED, CLEAN UP THE KITCHEN AND THEN WATCH A RENTED MOVIE UNTIL WE BOTH FALL ASLEEP ON THE COUCH.
THAT'S WHAT WE DO EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT.
I KNOW, BUT WHEN YOU CALL IT "SPONTANEOUS," IT SOUNDS MORE EXCITING.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

B1 GANG
BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


O PARE. BAKIT NAPA-LONG DISTANCE KA?
GANON BA? SIGE. BUKAS PUPUNTA AKO DIYAN.
EVGARAYBLAS 8.11.5
SINO 'YON, MIKE?
KUMPARE KONG TAGA-MARINDUQUE.
b1gang.com.ph
MAY TIP SIYANG SCOOP NA BALITA!
IHAHANDA KO NA ANG GAMIT MO.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Pope John Paul II, George Strait, Dame Margot Fonteyn, Yun-Fat Chow, Reggie Jackson

Happy Birthday: It's time to get back into the fast lane by taking the initiative to join groups or organizations that you believe in and enjoy. The more you do to help yourself, the happier you will be and the more confidence you will have. Stop procrastinating and get in the game. This is a year to loosen up and have some fun. Your numbers: 19, 20, 24, 33, 41, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Overindulgence could put you in the doghouse with your mate. Be attentive if you wish to keep the peace on the home front. Your quick temper will only make matters worse.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can expect relatives to push their way into your affairs. Stop them in their tracks, or be prepared to have problems with your lover. Put some work into making your home a place of comfort.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use discretion when joining groups. Other members are not likely to be as dedicated as you are. Your time will be wasted if you don't make your intentions clear right from the beginning.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): This is not the day to get into one of your crabby moods. Tempers will fly, and you can bet that you won't win. Direct your emotional energy into passion instead. Take positive, not negative, action.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You should be traveling about today. You can sell your ideas to those who may be able to put some money behind them. Expand your plans to include some influential individuals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Financial investments will be unstable. Don't work in conjunction with someone else if money is involved. You need to be conservative with your cash.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Disharmony in your personal relationship will cause stress and lowered vitality. Get rid of the things and the people who are holding you back, making your life worse, or lowering your self-esteem.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let work interfere with personal plans. Your mate will be much harder to deal with than your boss. Take one thing at a time and don't make rash decisions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Jump into activities that will spark your enthusiasm and stimulate your intellect. You have a lot to contribute to any organization you join. Social events will lead to an intimate relationship.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'd better hope that your family is forgiving. You've spent little time tending to their needs, and you're going to pay the price if you don't make some time for loved ones.

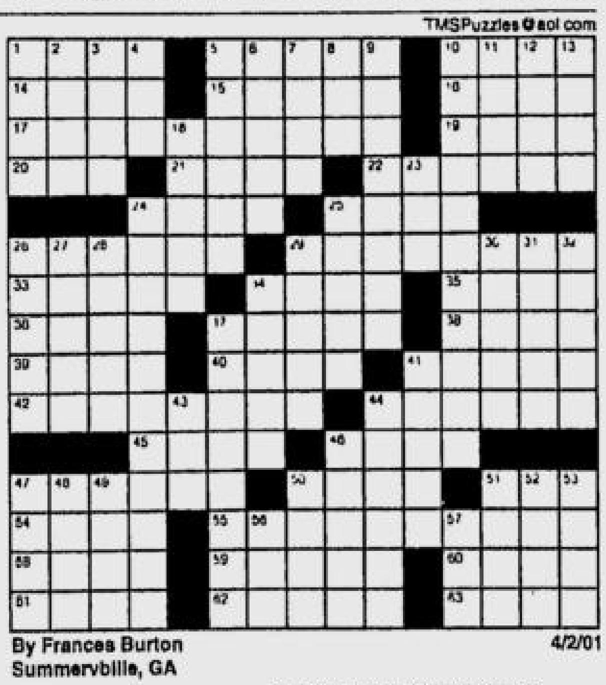
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need to get away and take a breather from the hectic pace. Reflect on the days gone by and figure out a way to make your life a little less complicated.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You need to concentrate on making money and advancing professionally. Do whatever is necessary to impress the boss. Extra effort will be recognized.

Birthday Baby: You are like a bolt of lightning. You want to try everything and be the center of attention. You are quick to take advantage of opportunities and are always willing to put in extra effort.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Frances Burton
Summervbille, GA

4/2/01

ACROSS
1 Currency
5 Falling ice
10 Geometric solid
14 Painful throb
15 Data display
16 Musical of the '60s
17 Companion of Uncle Remus
19 Peak in Sicily
20 __ of Cortez
21 Bullfight bravos
22 Skin eruptions
24 __ over (study)
25 Wild party
26 Challenging spares
29 Skirling instruments
33 Carroll's girl
34 Matador's challenger
35 Lacoste of the courts
36 Not curly
37 Woody spine
38 Leisure
39 Ocean motion
40 Appraise
41 Rugby formation
42 Reside among
44 Libra's symbol
45 Staffs
46 Thwack
47 Mississippi resort
50 Lat. list-ender
51 __ mitzvah
54 Isaac's eldest
55 Star of "The Wise Little Hen"
58 Fewer
59 Agassi or Citroen
60 British princess
61 French head
62 Prescribed amounts
63 Brood

DOWN
1 Hacks
2 Piece of land
3 George Beverly or John
4 "And I Love __"
5 Buys time
6 Maker's sticker
7 Flows back
8 Wallach of "Baby Doll"
9 Four-sided polygon
10 Fictional smiler
11 Vow
12 Yankees' complement
13 Memorable periods
18 Way to go
23 Egyptian viper
24 Intellectually unchallenging
25 Wilkes-__, PA
26 Old sailors
27 Braid
28 Ronstadt or Evans
29 Diner seating choice
30 Oyster find
31 Follow in order
32 Appears
34 Frank Sinatra song, "__ Life"
37 Tobago's neighbor
41 Use boiling water
43 Paraffin
44 Low tracts
46 Blank gaze
47 Orion feature
48 Words of realization
49 Stand up
50 Finales
51 Sacrifice play
52 Complexion problem
53 Slant
56 John Lennon's Plastic __ Band
57 Karl Marx book, "__ Kapital"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	T	R	E	S	S	■	C	A	T	T	I	E	S	T
T	R	I	P	L	E	■	A	N	O	I	N	T	E	R
R	E	S	E	A	T	■	S	T	E	P	H	A	N	E
I	N	S	E	N	S	A	T	E	■	■	E	G	O	S
A	D	O	■	T	U	N	E	■	W	I	R	E	R	S
T	E	L	■	S	P	Y	■	D	E	S	I	R	E	E
E	D	E	N	■	■	■	G	I	A	N	T	E	S	S
■	■	■	E	S	P	E	R	A	N	T	O	■	■	■
R	E	S	O	L	U	T	E	■	■	■	R	I	G	G
U	S	O	P	E	N	S	■	P	E	H	■	M	R	I
S	C	A	L	D	S	■	R	A	V	E	■	P	A	N
S	A	R	A	■	■	H	A	R	A	S	S	I	N	G
E	P	I	S	O	D	I	C	■	D	E	L	E	T	E
L	E	N	I	T	I	V	E	■	E	D	I	T	O	R
L	E	G	A	T	E	E	S	■	S	A	T	Y	R	S

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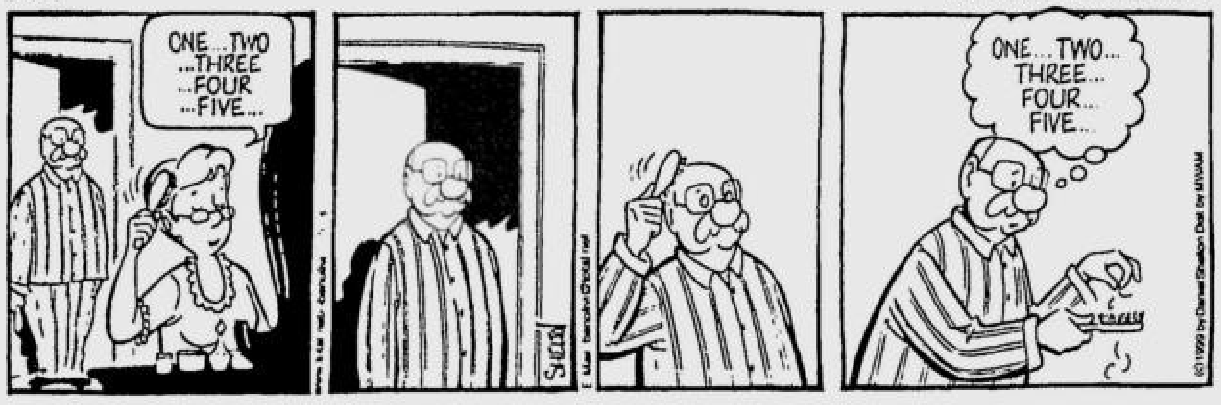
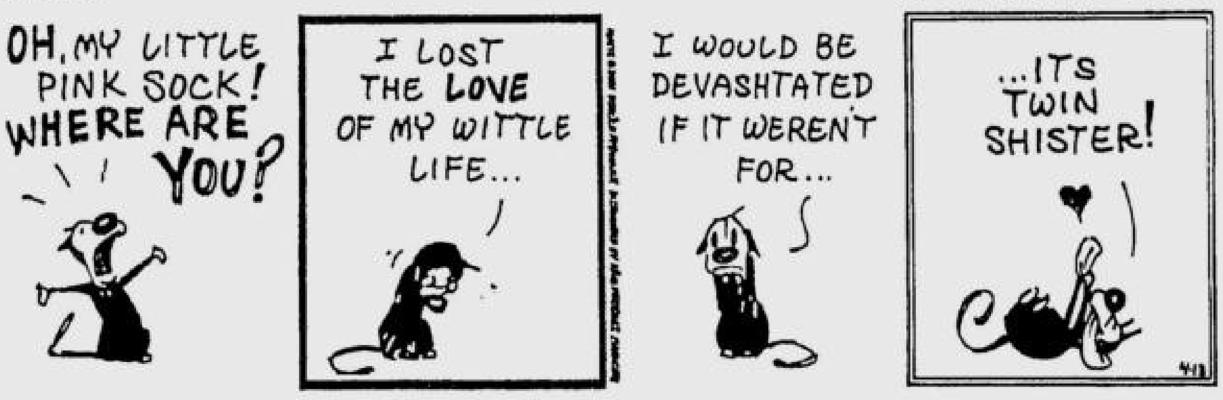
4/2/01

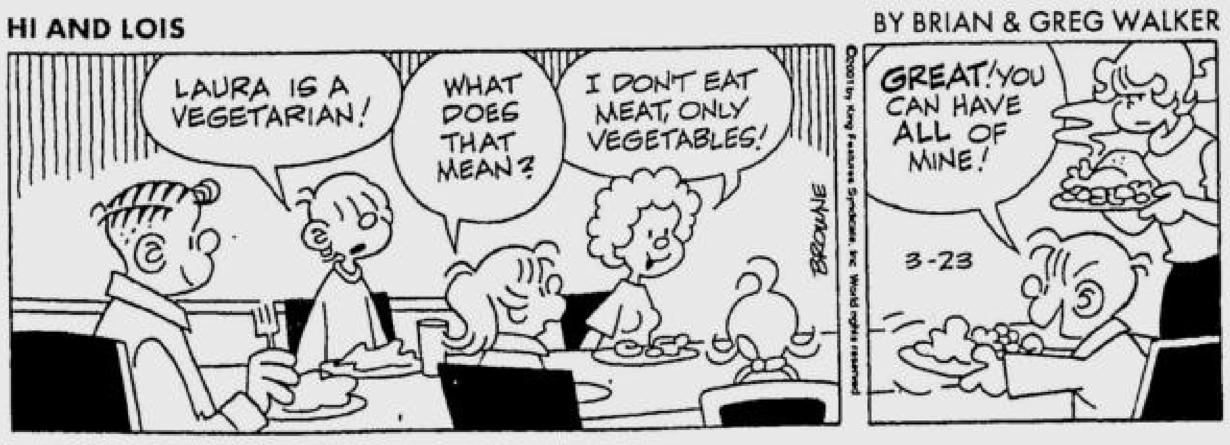
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


ONE...TWO ...THREE ...FOUR ...FIVE...
ONE...TWO... THREE... FOUR... FIVE...
SHELTON

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, MY LITTLE PINK SOCK! WHERE ARE YOU?
I LOST THE LOVE OF MY WITTLE LIFE...
I WOULD BE DEVASHTATED IF IT WEREN'T FOR...
...ITS TWIN SHISTER!
4/13

HI AND LOIS
BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


LAURA IS A VEGETARIAN!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
I DON'T EAT MEAT, ONLY VEGETABLES!
BROWNE
GREAT! YOU CAN HAVE ALL OF MINE!
3-23
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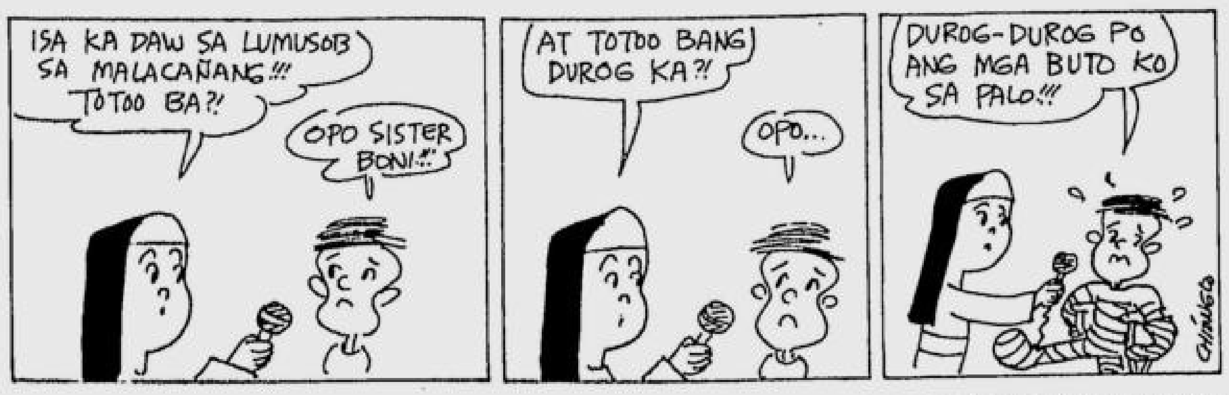
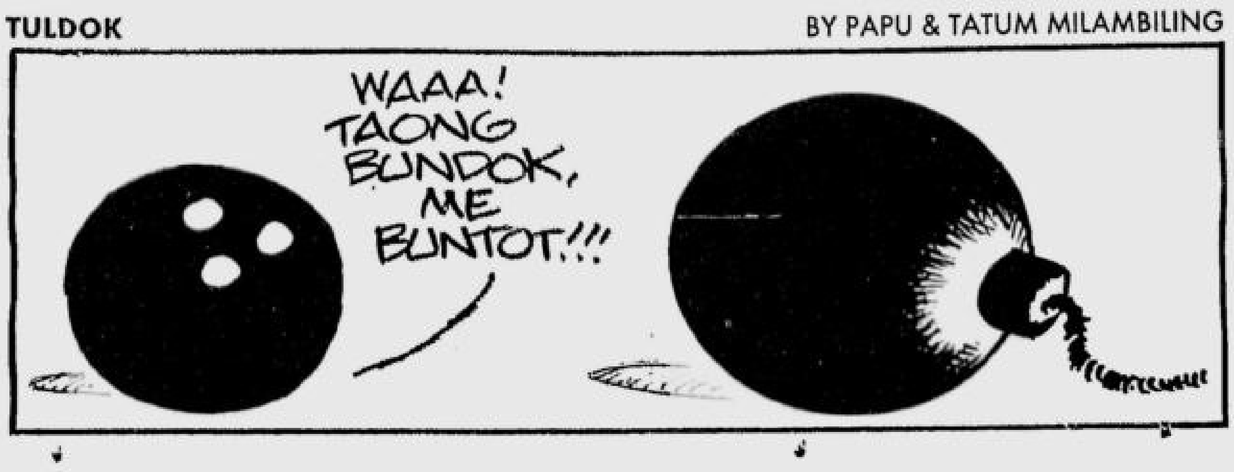
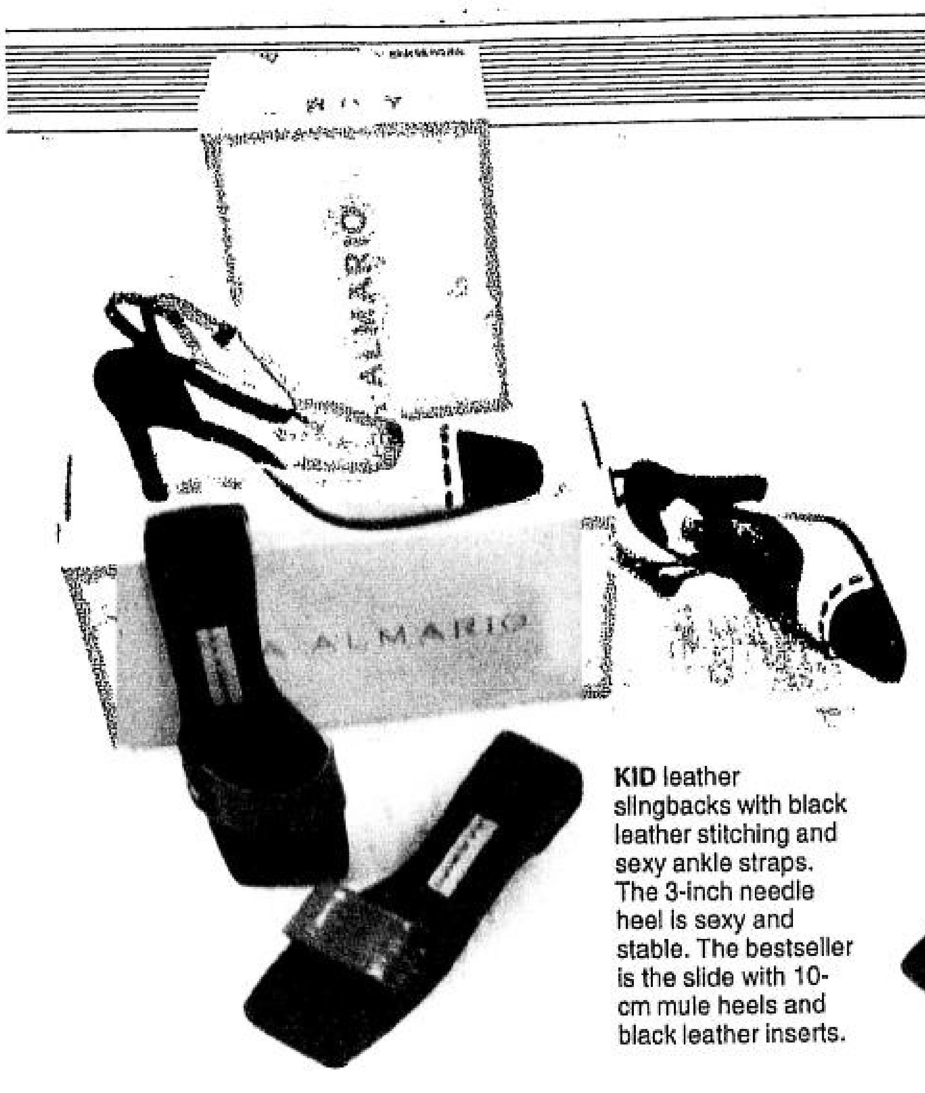
LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ISA KA DAW SA LUMUSOB SA MALACAÑANG!!! TOTOO BA?!
OPO SISTER BONI!
AT TOTOO BANG DUROG KA?!
OPO...
DUROG-DUROG PO ANG MGA BUTO KO SA PALO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


WAAA! TAONG BUNDOK, ME BUNTOT!!!



KID leather slingbacks with black leather stitching and sexy ankle straps. The 3-inch needle heel is sexy and stable. The bestseller is the slide with 10-cm mule heels and black leather inserts.

STEPHANIE carries the black satin sandals with white rosettes. Jessica holds the red kid mule with black leather.

STEPHANIE is shod in polka-dotted mules made of white kid leather with perforations. Zelda is shod in a red wedge with matching mini bucket bag made of sari material.

Toe to toe with Lila Almario

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

IT all began when designer Auggie Cordero asked Italy-trained shoemaker Lila (pronounced with a long "i") Almario to make a pointed stiletto to complement his feminine designs.

Almario comes from the family that made Gregg shoes, a brand favored by students. Her grandfather, Julio Gregorio, started the business by making children's and ladies' shoes. In the *bodega*, she discovered a stiletto done in 1963 that suited Cordero's style. She reinvented the last (the wooden form shaped like the foot on which shoes are made) of that model to produce a modern version. When people saw the style, they thought it was a Manolo Blahnik.

A Manolo costs nearly P20,000, but you can get a Lila Almario shoe for P2,800—made-to-measure at that if you're over size 9.

Almario dreamed of making shoes for the Filipina despite naysayers who claimed that there was no market for her. Filipinas would rather buy imported shoes. Almario persevered.

"I believe that if you make good shoes, people will appreciate it," she says.

Almario became popular with bridal making, designing shoes for famous clients such as Charlene Gonzales and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a meeting with Charlene and Aga Muhlach, Almario was trying to size up the two. She didn't want the heels to make the bride taller than the groom. But Muhlach didn't care. "I'll stand tall beside her," he said.

Almario's dream of producing quality shoes for the local market was finally fulfilled when the doors of her store opened at Rockwell's Power Plant last Saturday afternoon. The store offers shoes for all occasions, done in kid and calf leather from Italy, Spain and Japan. The shoes are feminine and light, unlike the clumsy and clunky designs from other brands.

"The styles are safe. We try to make flattering shoes that are simple, not too fussy," says Almario.

Get an eyeful of sandals with rosettes, polka-dotted mules and mules with toe caps. Lime green slides have been good sellers. Women delight in the fashionable stilettos with pointed caps. Snakeskin styles come in fun colors such as powder blue, banana yellow, lilac, yellow and turquoise.

The Italy-trained shoemaker from the famous clan that made Gregg shoes has the world on her stilettoed feet

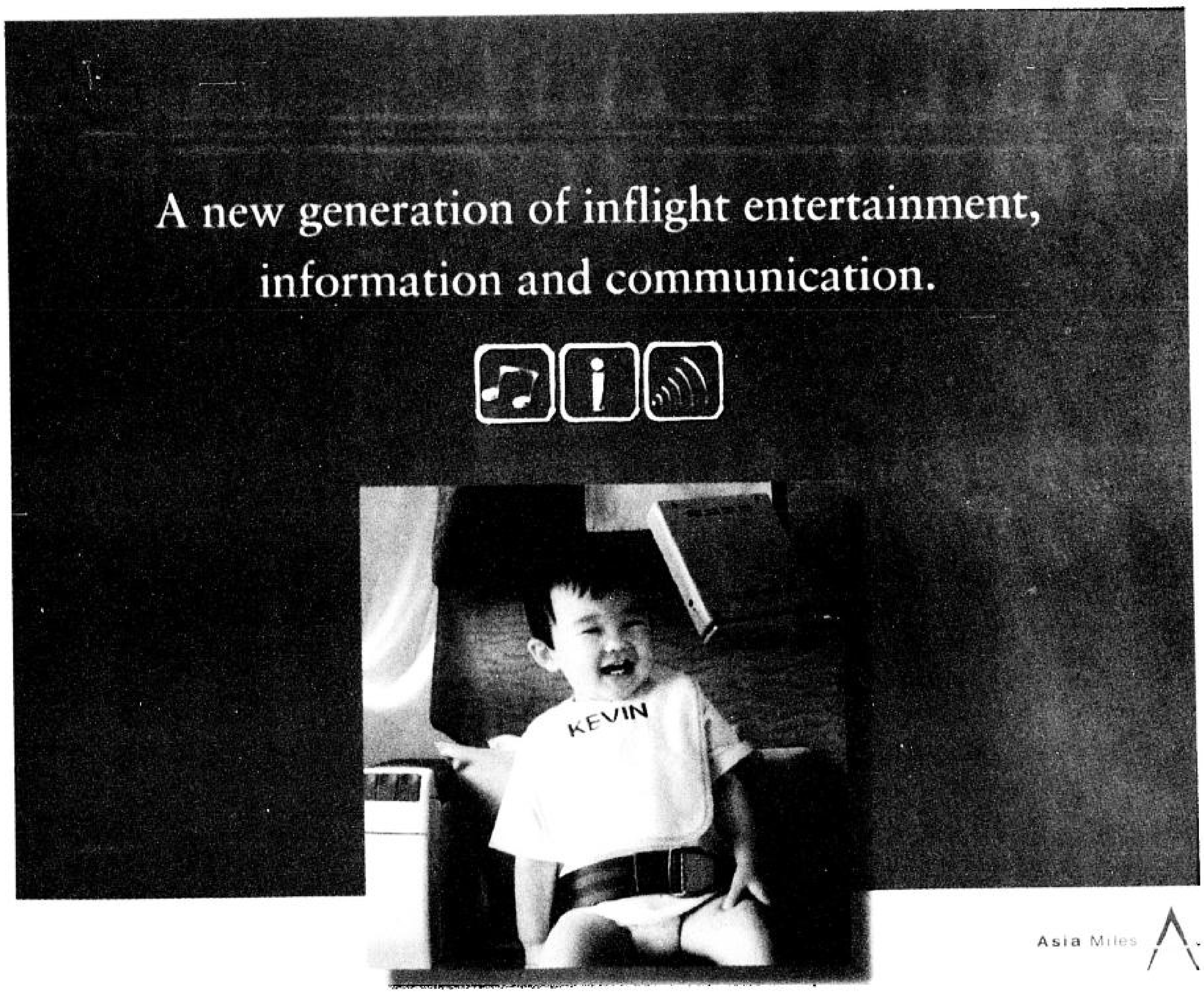
The Italy-trained Almario keeps her workers in check so that the shoes are in top quality. The styles are labor-intensive. The polka-dotted shoe uses double leather, a combination of white kid with an inner layer of black kid.

While shopping at the store, singer Cris Villonco told her mother Monique that she should get a pair of pumps. Monique asked what for? Cris replied, "*Para ka mukhang kagalang-galang* (So that you'll look respectable)."

Now wouldn't that be a great advertising tagline?

BLACK patent leather mule with cutouts and white kid piping as the extended sole.

MODELS:
ZELDA ARAGON-KIENLE AND HER DAUGHTERS,
STEPHANIE AND JESSICA
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY PETER URBI
MAKEUP: CHRISTIAN DIOR
CLOTHES: SYRUP AND BAZAAR, RUSTAN'S MAKATI
LILA ALMARIO STORE IS LOCATED AT 209 LEVEL, POWER
PLANT, ROCKWELL CENTER. TEL 898-1838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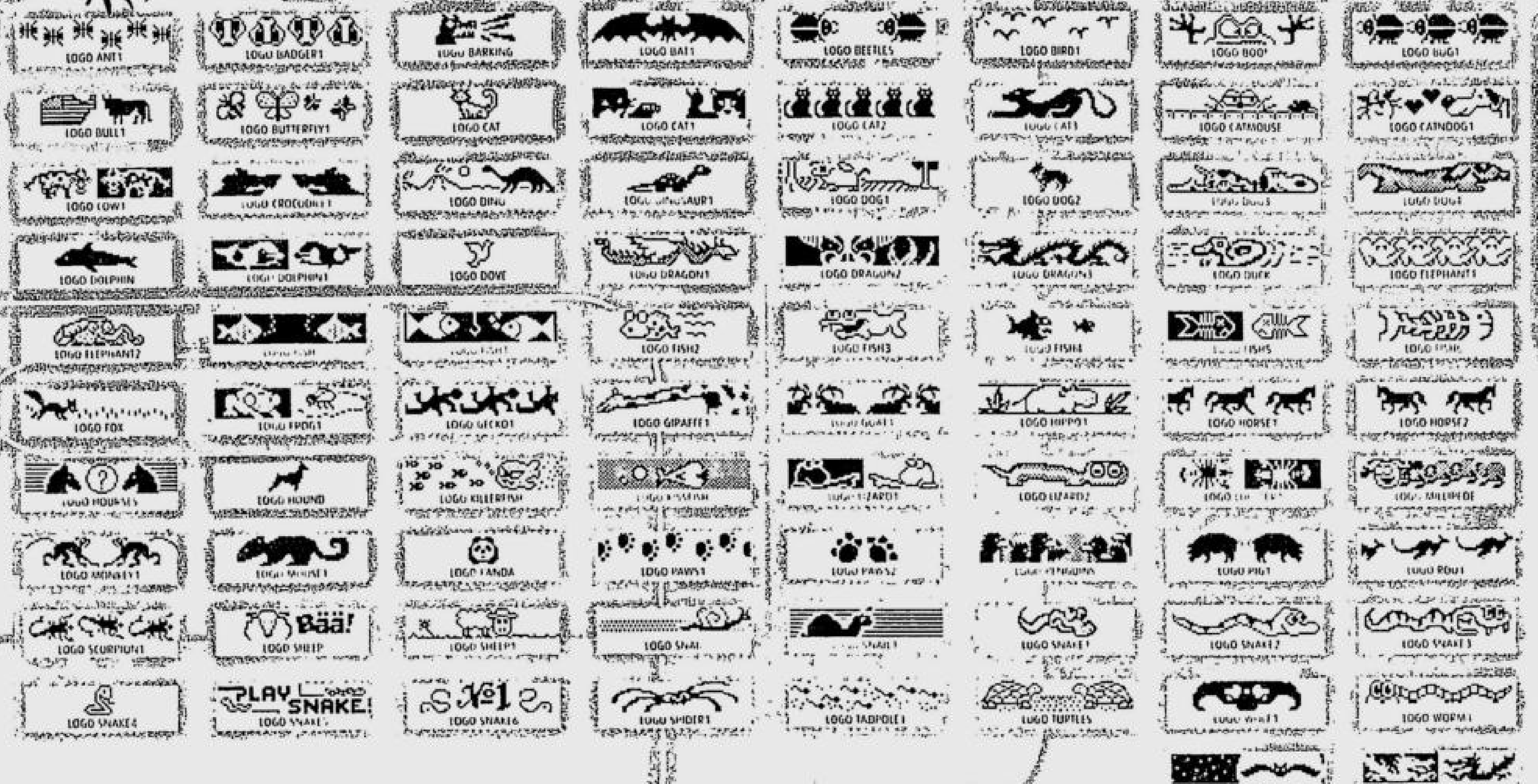
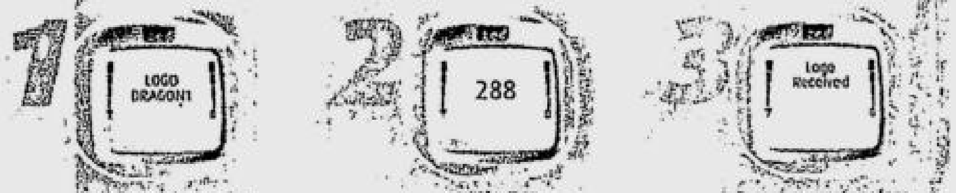
animal logos


LOGO ANT1
LOGO BADGER1
LOGO BARKING
LOGO BAT1
LOGO BEETLES
LOGO BIRD1
LOGO BUG1
LOGO BULL1
LOGO BUTTERFLY1
LOGO CAT
LOGO CAT1
LOGO CAT2
LOGO CAT3
LOGO CATMOUSE
LOGO CATNDOG1
LOGO COW1
LOGO CROCODILE1
LOGO DINO
LOGO DOG1
LOGO DOG2
LOGO DOLPHIN
LOGO DOLPHIN1
LOGO DOVE
LOGO DRAGON1
LOGO DRAGON2
LOGO DRAGON3
LOGO DUCK
LOGO ELEPHANT1
LOGO ELEPHANT2
LOGO FISH2
LOGO FISH3
LOGO FISH4
LOGO FISH5
LOGO FOX
LOGO FROG1
LOGO GECKO1
LOGO GIRAFFE1
LOGO GOAT1
LOGO HIPPO1
LOGO HORSE1
LOGO HORSE2
LOGO HORSES
LOGO HOUND
LOGO KILLERFISH
LOGO LIZARD1
LOGO LIZARD2
LOGO MILLIPEDE
LOGO MONKEY1
LOGO MOUSE1
LOGO PANDA
LOGO PAWS1
LOGO PAWS2
LOGO PIG1
LOGO ROO1
LOGO SCORPION1
Bää!
LOGO SHEEP
LOGO SHEEP1
LOGO SNAIL
LOGO SNAKE1
LOGO SNAKE2
LOGO SNAKE3
LOGO SNAKE4
PLAY SNAKE!
LOGO SNAKE5
№1
LOGO SNAKE6
LOGO SPIDER1
LOGO TADPOLE1
LOGO TURTLES
LOGO WHALE1
LOGO WORM1
LOGO BAT2

How to download:


1
LOGO DRAGON1
2
288
3
Logo Received

Key-In Logo keyword.
Example: LOGO DRAGON1

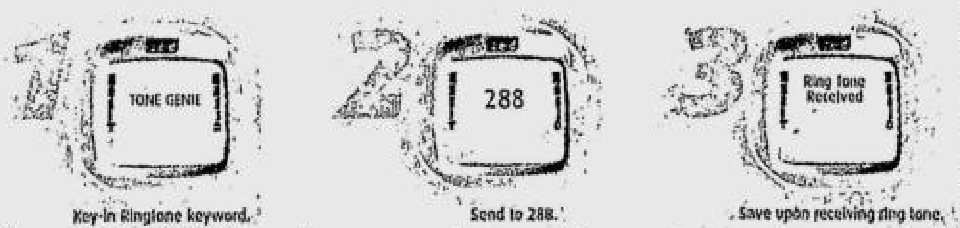
Send to 288.

Save upon receiving logo.

pop ringtones

Description	Artist/Composer	Keyword
99 Luft Balloons	Joern Fahrenkig-Peterson/Karlo Karges/Kevin	TONE 99RED
Again	Janet Jackson	TONE AGAIN
All The Small Things	Blink 182	TONE SMALTING
Always Something There	Naked Eyes	TONE SUMTINDER
Am I The Same Girl	Swingout Sisters/Eugene Recor/William Sander	TONE SAMEGIRL
Breakfast At Tiffany's	Deep Blue Something/Todd Pipes	TONE TIFFANYS
Breakout	Swingout Sisters	TONE BRKOUT
Closing Time	Semisonic	TONE CLOSTIME
Dreaming Of You	Selena	TONE DRIMOFU
Every Little Thing She Does	Sting	TONE LITLTHNG
Genie In A Bottle	Cristina Aguilera	TONE GENIE
I Knew I Love You	Savage Garden/Darren Hayes/Daniel Jones	TONE IKNWLUVU
I Love You Always Forever	Donna Lewis	TONE LUVULWYS
I Try	Macy Gray	TONE ITRY
Kiss From A Rose	Seal	TONE KISFROSE
Kiss Me	Six Pence None The Richer/Mathew Slocum	TONE KISSME
Lambada	Reginaldo Francisco	TONE LAMBADA
Love Is All Around	Wet Wet Wet	TONE FOURWED
Love Is All That Matters	Diane Warren	TONE LUVMATR
Love Me For A Reason	Boyzone	TONE LUV4RISN
Open Your Heart	Madonna	TONE OPENUR
Pretty Fly	Offspring	TONE PRETIFLY
Save A Prayer	Duran Duran	TONE SAVPRYR
Scar Tissue	Red Hot Chilli Peppers	TONE SCARTIS
Shout	Tears For Fears	TONE SHOUT
Somebody	Martin Gore/Alan Wilder	TONE SUMBODY
Suburbia	Pet Shop Boys	TONE SUBURB
Sweet Child Of Mine	Guns N' Roses	TONE SWEETCHI
Take On Me	Aha	TONE TAKEONME
Too Close	Next	TONE 2CLOSE
Truly Madly Deeply	Savage Garden/Darren Hayes/Daniel Jones	TONE TRULYMAD
Unbelievable	EMF-DENCH/Aatkin/Foley/Decleot/Brownson	TONE UNBELIV
Wake Me Up Before You Go Go	Wham	TONE WAKEMEUP
What A Girl Wants	Cristina Aguilera	TONE WHATAGIRL
You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling	Hall & Oates	TONE LOSTLOVN

How to download:


1
TONE GENIE
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288
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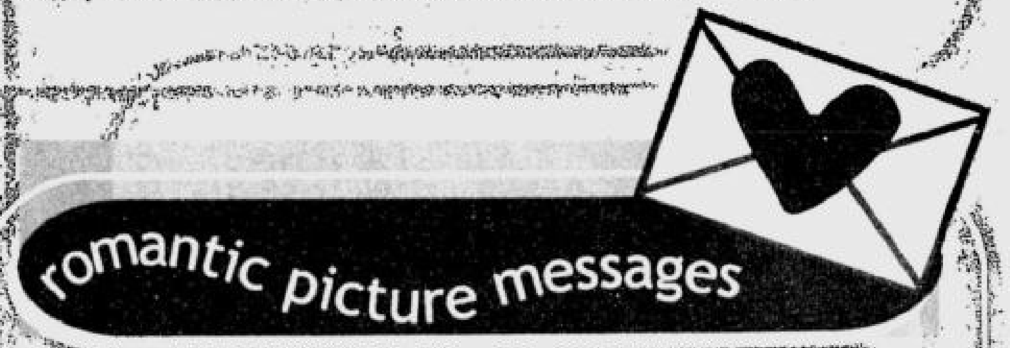
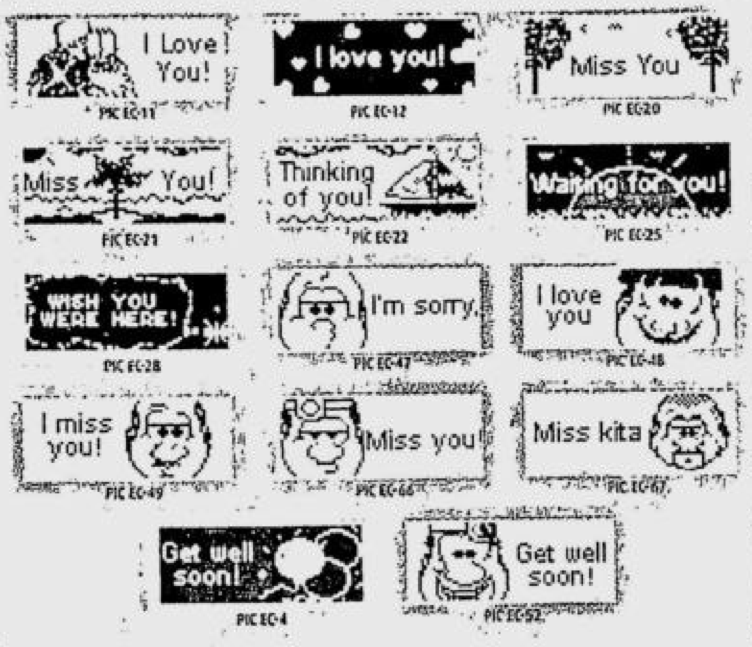
Ring tone Received

Key-in Ringtone keyword.
Example: TONE GENIE.

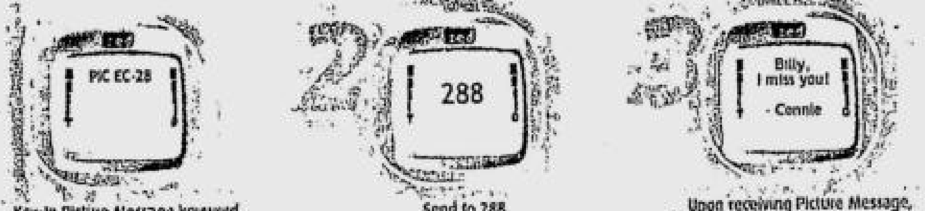
Send to 288.

Save upon receiving ring tone.


romantic picture messages


I Love You!
PIC EC-11
I love you!
PIC EC-12
Miss You
PIC EC-20
Miss You!
PIC EC-21
Thinking of you!
PIC EC-22
Waiting for you!
PIC EC-25
WISH YOU WERE HERE!
PIC EC-28
I'm sorry.
PIC EC-47
I love you
PIC EC-48
I miss you!
PIC EC-49
Miss you
PIC EC-66
Miss kita
PIC EC-67
Get well soon!
PIC EC-4
Get well soon!
PIC EC-52

How to download:


PIC EC-28
2
288
3
Billy, I miss you!
- Connie

Key-In Picture Message keyword.
Example: PIC EC-28

Send to 288.

Upon receiving Picture Message, save, add your personal message and send to intended recipient.

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LIFESTYLE Home

A fresh leafy look at floral arrangement

Commercial production designer Jaime Santiago is right smack in a career shift of sorts. His leaf-based floral designs are getting kudos even from the most ardent floral purists

JAIME Santiago and his foliage fireworks

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BY TITA V. GIRON
PHOTOS BY BOBOT MERU

JAIME Santiago is a name to watch out for in the highly competitive florist trade. Although he is relatively unknown in the business, without even a flower shop to speak of, he is already changing concepts in local flower arrangement. Instead of the usual profusion of colorful tropical blooms and imported flowers preferred by most florists, a Jaime Santiago's typical creation is an artistic combination of fresh leaves with different shapes and textures.

Another individual stamp of Jaime's foliage arrangements is a long vase life that lasts for two weeks to one month. Usual a flower arrangement lasts five days to one week.

"Unless the customer asks for flowers, I prefer to stick to cut foliage," he explained. He does wedding packages, parties, business receptions and indoor flower arrangements.

Very Asian

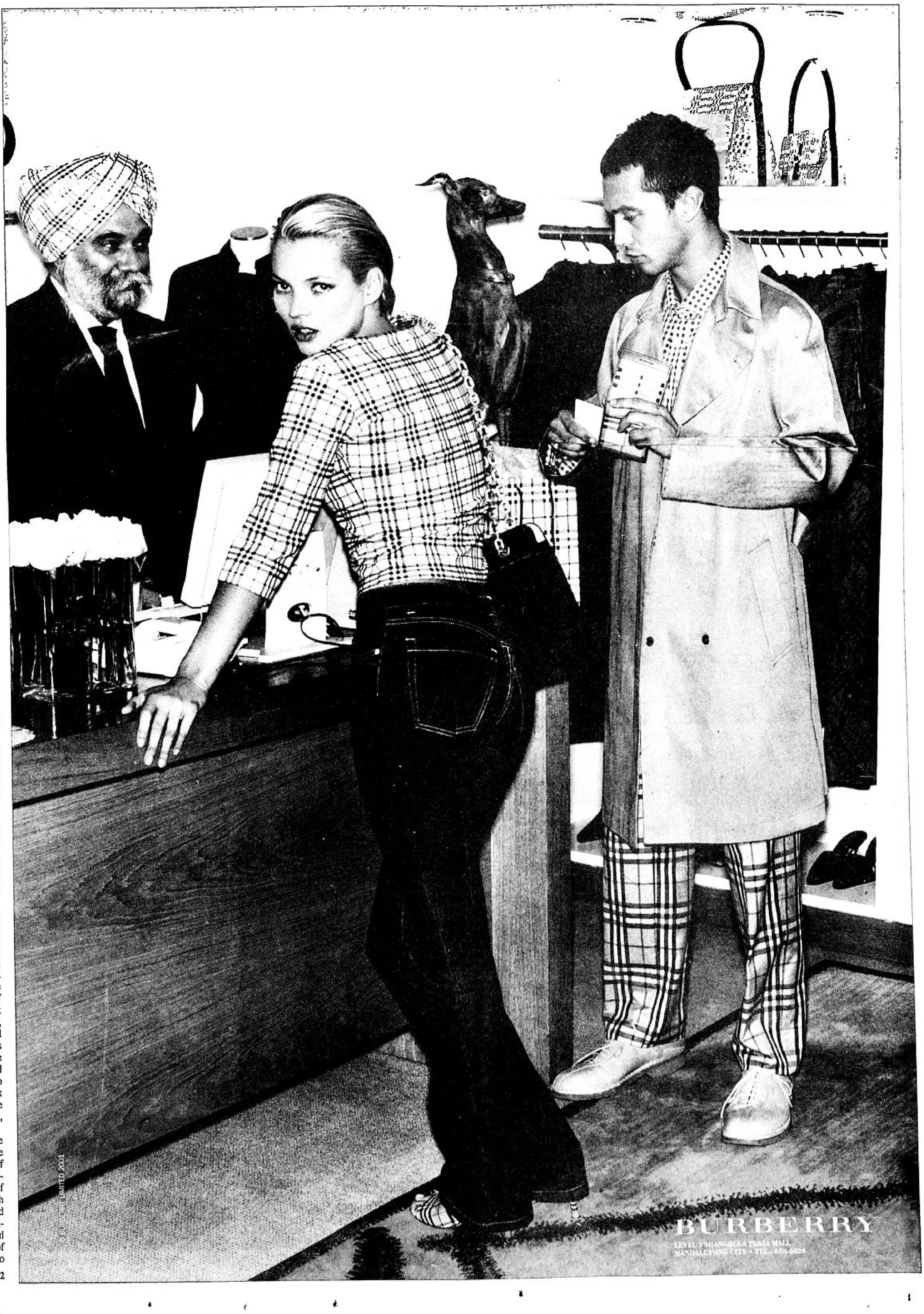
There's no name yet to Jaime's style of using foliage as focal point in his works. "It's very Asian and I like to think of it as the Asian flower arrangement for lack of a name," he told us inside the Green Room of Emphasis beauty salon in Rockwell. He provides the floral arrangements in this state-of-the art salon of Teng Roma, Manila's topnotch beauty stylist and a longtime friend of Jaime.

Typical of Jaime's style of arrangement is a cream-colored vase filled with two decks of papyrus leaves that stood on a low table in the green room. In another corner was a blue vase with a leafy combination of *pincerai*, *seloum*, *xanadu* and a bunch of small aster flowers that looked like feathery leaves.

In that cozy room with piped-in oriental music, customers can have a tea party while having facials and shampoo. To add a touch of color to the various shades of green and brown that dominated the room, Jaime slipped two red powder puff lilies among the tall lace grass blades in a red crystal vase. He also filled a bowl with pink tulips, something he didn't do very often, he said.

"My materials are inexpensive, but they're not common. Some of my favorites, for example, are the fruits of the rattan palm which are seasonal, and dried twigs I buy at a landscape seller on coastal road." The gardens of his customers are also

A FRESH/ p.F2


BURBERRY
LEVEL 3 SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL
MANDALUYONG CITY • TEL.: [illegible]
BURBERRY LIMITED 2001

BEEHIVE ginger with lace grass and dried twigs

LOCATION:
EMPHASIS SALON,
ROCKWELL
INFORMATION CENTER

FOLIAGE fireworks with papyrus leaves and dried twigs. Tulips in the bowl beside the torch ginger

TULIPS on a bed of *pinceral* and lace grass

A fresh leafy look at floral arrangement

(From page F1)

a good source of materials, he added.

"I buy most of the materials at Dangwa flower center, the florists' paradise," he said. A few years ago, the center was just the Dangwa bus station that transported Baguio's flower harvests. It is now a night market that sells every conceivable thing florists can use.

Stunning

"I love to create something beautiful out of practically nothing of account." He proved his point by showing us a stunning foliage arrangement using blades of grass and a bunch of palm fruits. It was strategically located at the main salon of Emphasis. We don't doubt it was placed there for customers to have something to concentrate on so they don't get bored while sitting under one of Teng's high-tech hair dryers.

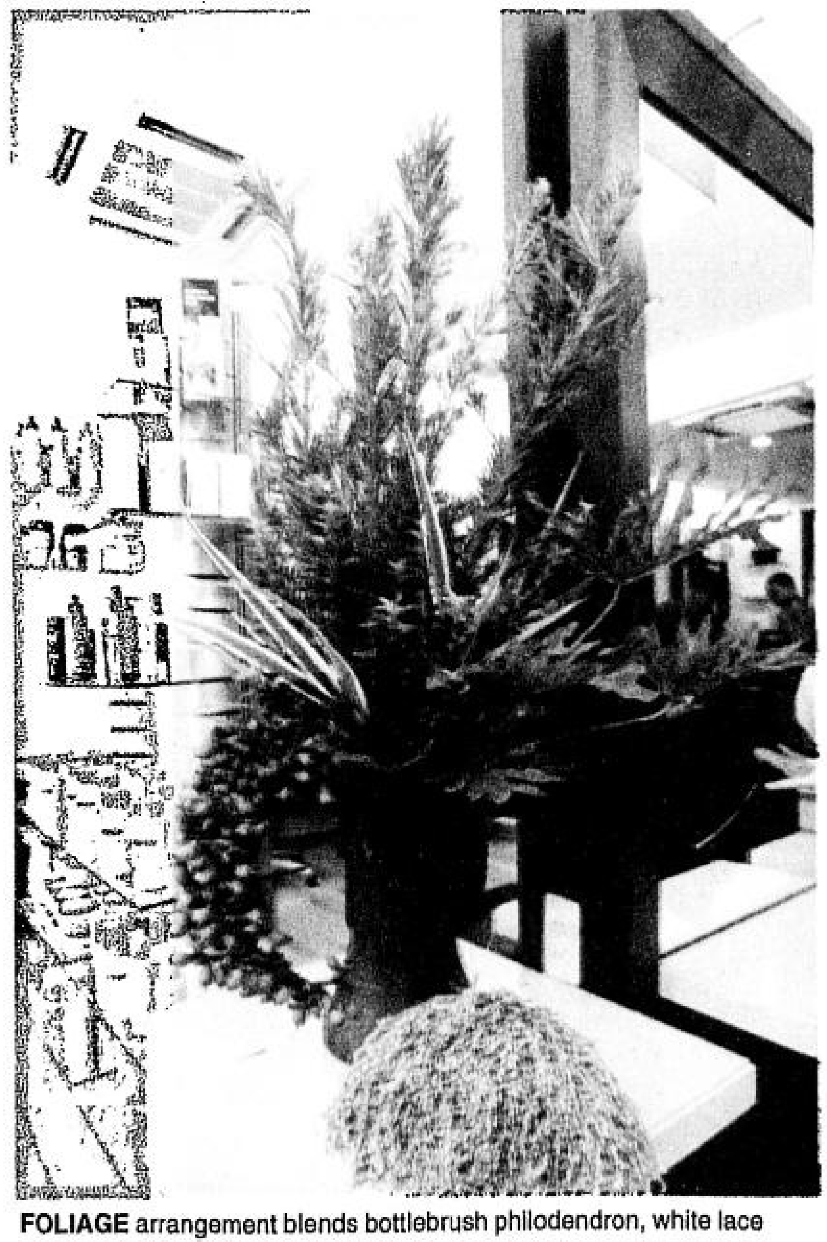
The other function rooms are showcases of Jaime's foliage arrangement. There's a vase of *seloum*, foxtail and mother-in-law's tongue at the lounge where lectures on image enhancement are given by no less than Joyce Oreña. In the facial den is an arrangement of white lace grass and *seloum*.

Jaime has one advantage over many florists in town. He is a commercial production designer by profession. Some of his recent projects included, among others, Shakey's television commercial, Del Monte's Kitchenomics recipes, Ligo and food styling for a cable station's lifestyle channel.

Jaime was a seminarian for four years before he studied pre-med, and later finished a course in Bachelor of Arts in English. "I had a liberal dose of art appreciation subjects," he said.

But his career in floral styling was the offshoot of doing production design for television commercials. "While I was doing a project, one of the producers must have been impressed by my flowers and asked me to make the arrange the flowers for her wedding and reception. That launched my career as a florist," he said.

Today, even without a flower shop or a permanent landline phone, Jaime's reputation as a florist stylist is spreading around. However, the only one way to see his work or send a message to him is to visit Emphasis at Rockwell. Or text him at (0917) 410-6971.



FOLIAGE arrangement blends bottlebrush philodendron, white lace grass and palm fruits.

TWISTER vase with *seloum*, *pincerai*, spiral ginger and solid asters

POWDERPUFF lilies among the lace grass blades

How's the Pasig River doing?

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

SOME reports on the second and latest "Kumusta Ka Na, Ilog Pasig?" symposium (March 20), which aimed to assess the progress of Pasig River rehabilitation, were not rave reviews.

This is understandable since there is still much to be done for the project to go forward. Also, now, the focus of the project is not on the river alone, but on the factors that have contributed to its diminished state. So we find riverbank projects, development of promenades and other enhancements that, hopefully, would replace the eyesores that illegal structures along the banks have become.

The quality of river water, however, remains an ever-important indication of river rehabilitation. And the Pasig's water quality has not improved inasmuch as the old practice of making the river a dumpsite and sewer still continues in several areas.

Pasig River rehabilitation is an uphill battle. You win some, lose some, and come up with an impasse. This is no reflection on the determination or dedication of those involved. Those who initiated the project, like Amelita M. Ramos, who began it on a government level, and then organized the non-government Clean & Green Foundation Inc. to assist it, knew it would not be finished overnight. So that in 1993 when the Pasig River Rehabilitation Program (PRRP) was created, its program was to upgrade the quality of water by 2005.

The job was taken over by the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) during the Estrada administration, which continued many of the old projects. Factories and commercial establishments, formerly accused of polluting the river, continued to comply with environmental regulations. But the river is long, and so much can still go unnoticed along the way. There are also the informal households—the politically correct way of referring to squatters—many of whom have been resettled in other places, but still others who are adamant on staying put where they are. They constitute one reason the Pasig cannot be kept completely clear and clean. The flotsam that pollute and clog the river are often traced back to them.

Evicting these households, and even relocating them, have not always been successful. The residents tend to complain of lack of basic services, or of being away from sources of livelihood, and often they are right. It is heartening to note, therefore, that these problems have been addressed by the PRRC committees in charge.

But before we go into what is being done in these areas, mention should be made about some of the complaints of relocatees. One of these was expressed, sometime in the mid-'90s, by a woman relocated in Cavite. She wished, she said, that they were near a place like Quiapo (under the bridge, where she used to live) where they often received food and other necessities from church groups. She did not mention that factories near her new area also hired some of the residents, and donated tricycles and sewing machines for the community to use, but the social workers assigned to the area reported that nothing came of those.

Training programs have since been introduced to enhance their means of livelihood, but we suggest that these programs instill a bit more creativity in the trainees, so they can learn to better adapt and make use of around them. After all, they made do with so little practically all their lives, making do with substantial livelihood assistance that should have more productive effects now.

REHABILITATION is an uphill battle.

The report of the Housing and Resettlement Committee of the PRRC during the symposium was of special interest to us because it is precisely that combination of relocation with livelihood assistance that was at its core.

It stated in part that as of 2000, there have been 4,646 Metro Manila families relocated out of a total of 10,214. This move-out has resulted in the clearing of 32 areas—12 in Manila, 10 in Makati, six in Mandaluyong and one in San Juan.

The resettlement areas are in Rodriguez, Rizal, with 2,850 units; Taguig with 240 units; Trece Martires, Cavite, with 1,000 units; and General Trias, Cavite, 1,706 units, all acquired as of December 2000, an occupancy rate of 73.5 percent.

To address the problems voiced by relocatees past and present—lack of access to basic services and livelihood opportunities—the livelihood subcommittee of the PRRC has embarked on several programs to assist affected families in resettlement sites to maintain, restore and/or enhance their income.

One is a skill-training program, another is micro-credit or capital assistance through the DSWD Self-Assistance Employment Kaunlaran Program, job placement and cooperative development. The estimated cost of the livelihood assistance until 2004 is P104.8 million. It must be noted that one of the sources for micro-credit or capital assistance is the Erap Trust Fund, of which P14.5 million has been earmarked for Pasig River relocatees. The livelihood subcommittee states that this fund "has not been accessed yet since the Erap Trust Fund is still processing the accreditation of a conduit." Business people must know what that means. It's doubtful that the relocatees do.

Easy way to get a green thumb

GREENHEARTS, the garden shop dedicated to helping city dwellers fall in love with gardening, has announced the distribution of its soil-less potting mix to popular outlets nationwide. Recently launched under the brand name Plantastic!, the soil-less poking mix is made especially for urban gardeners who want an easy way to safeguard the health of their potted plants.

Many are puzzled why many of the plants they buy from a garden store or nursery get sick or even die a few days after they're transplanted, despite the fact they were given the best of care. The common notion is that the gardeners simply have a green thumb. What they don't realize is that the soil they had used for repotting the plants may have been the culprit.

Plants grown in pots need more care than those in the ground do. In the confines of a pot, a plant has a more difficult time dealing with any soil-borne diseases or pests that may have come with the soil. Plantastic! offers a convenient solution by providing a sterilized, soil-less environment for plants to grow in.

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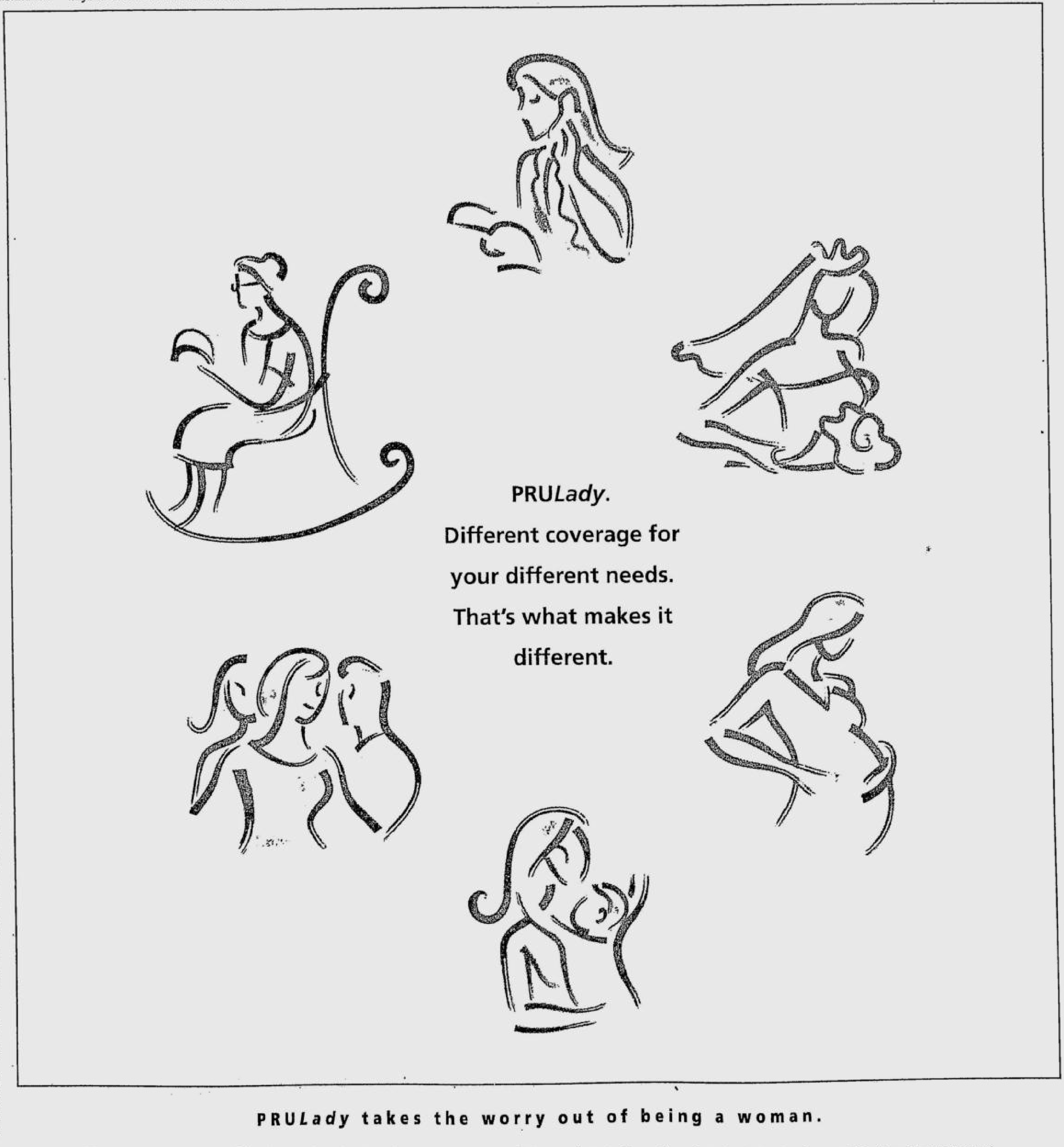
Plantastic! is now available at Ace Hardware (SM), GreenHearts, Landmark, Rustan's, Rockwell, SM Workshop and Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall. A visit to its website at www.greenhearts.com will give more details regarding Plantastic! and its benefits.

All varieties are available in 6-liter plastic packs, making usage and storage more convenient and less messy. For an easy way to get a green thumb, look for the bright orange-and-violet bags of Plantastic! or call GreenHearts at 411-6868 to -69 to find your nearest dealer.



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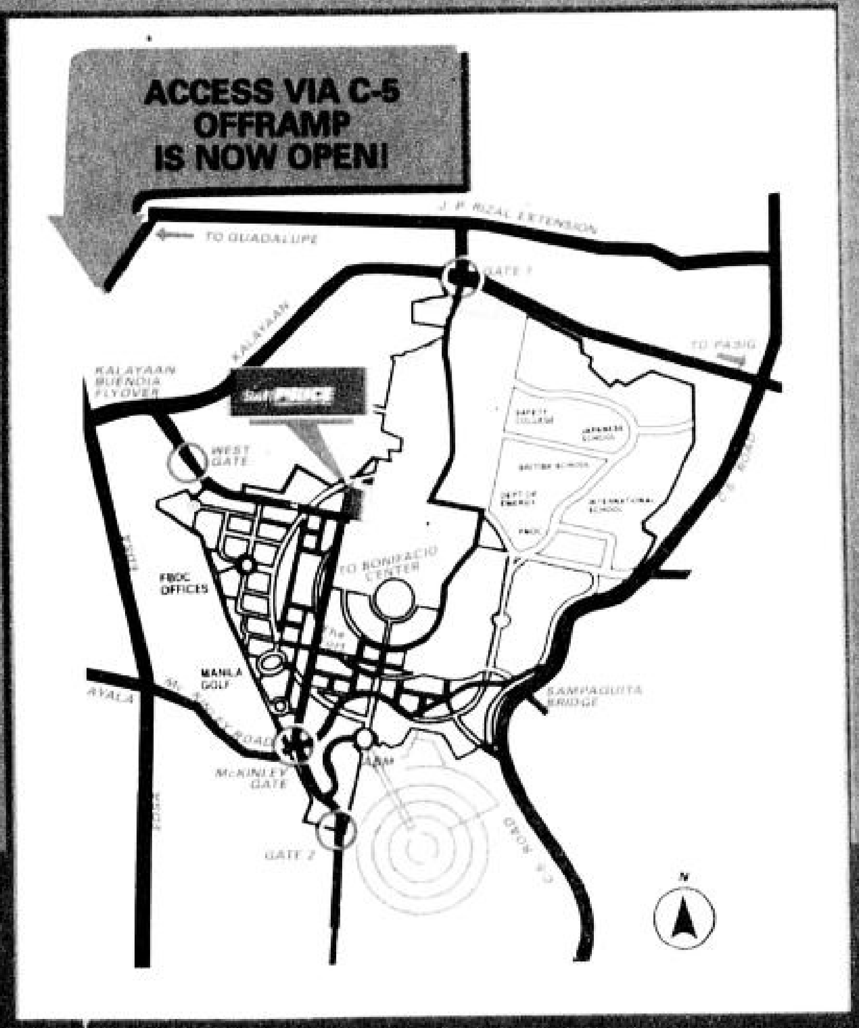
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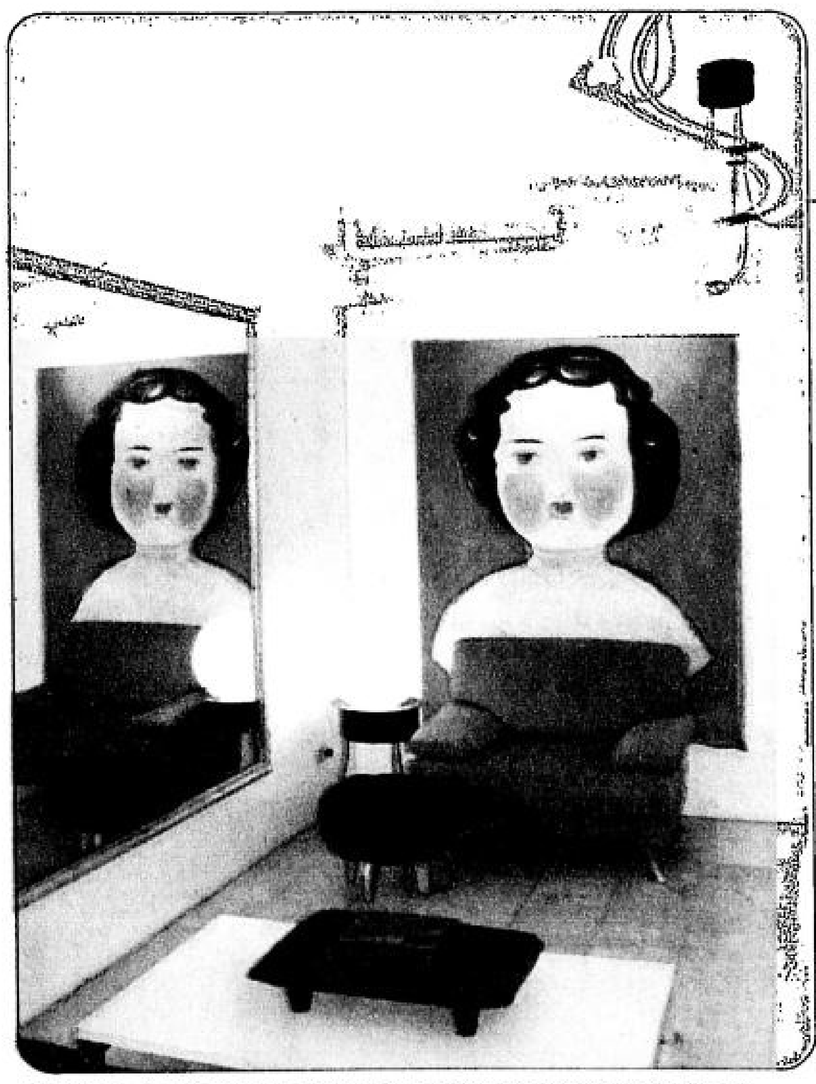
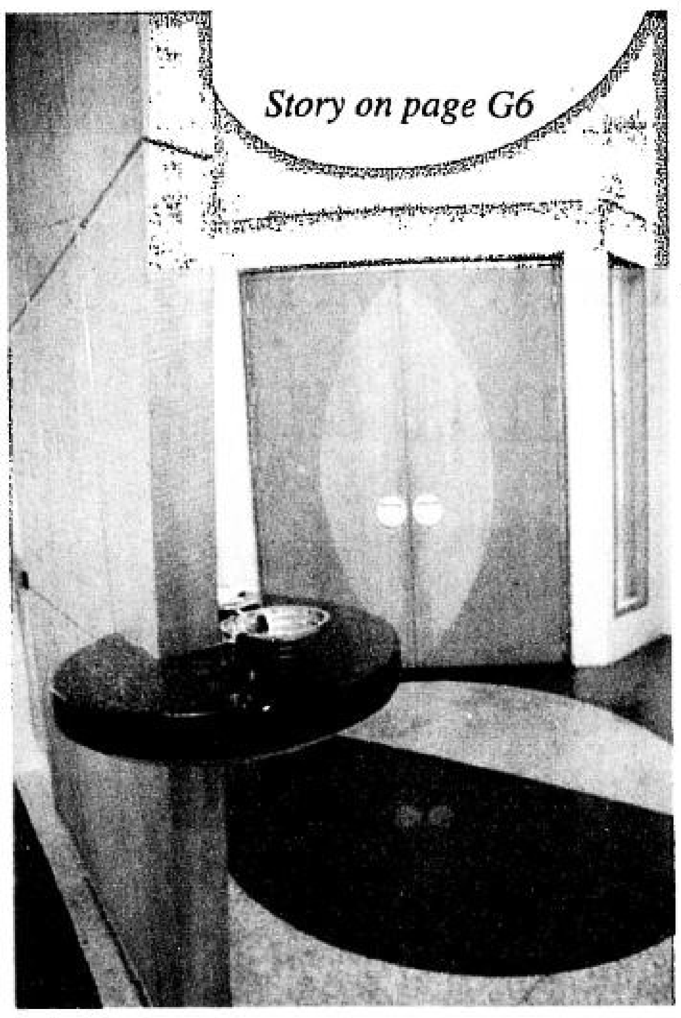


STRONG visuals such as artworks make a design statement amid generic appointments.

Home/office made on a budget

Story on page G3



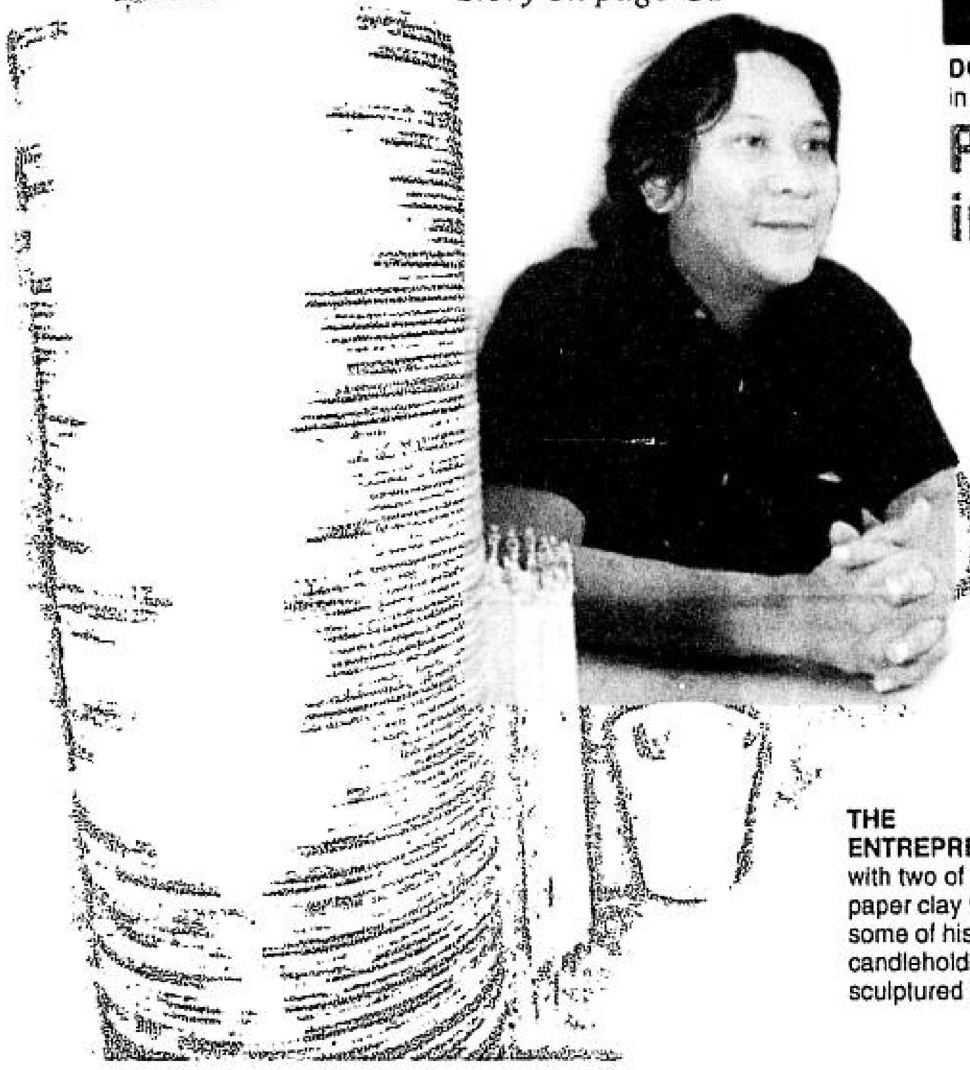
Story on page G6

DOUBLE door and wooden divider with ceramic countertop in the foyer

Putting Filipino soul in a Scandinavian house

Tony Gonzales transforms home pieces into functional art

Story on page G2



THE ENTREPRENEUR with two of his paper clay vases, some of his votive candleholders and sculptured pieces

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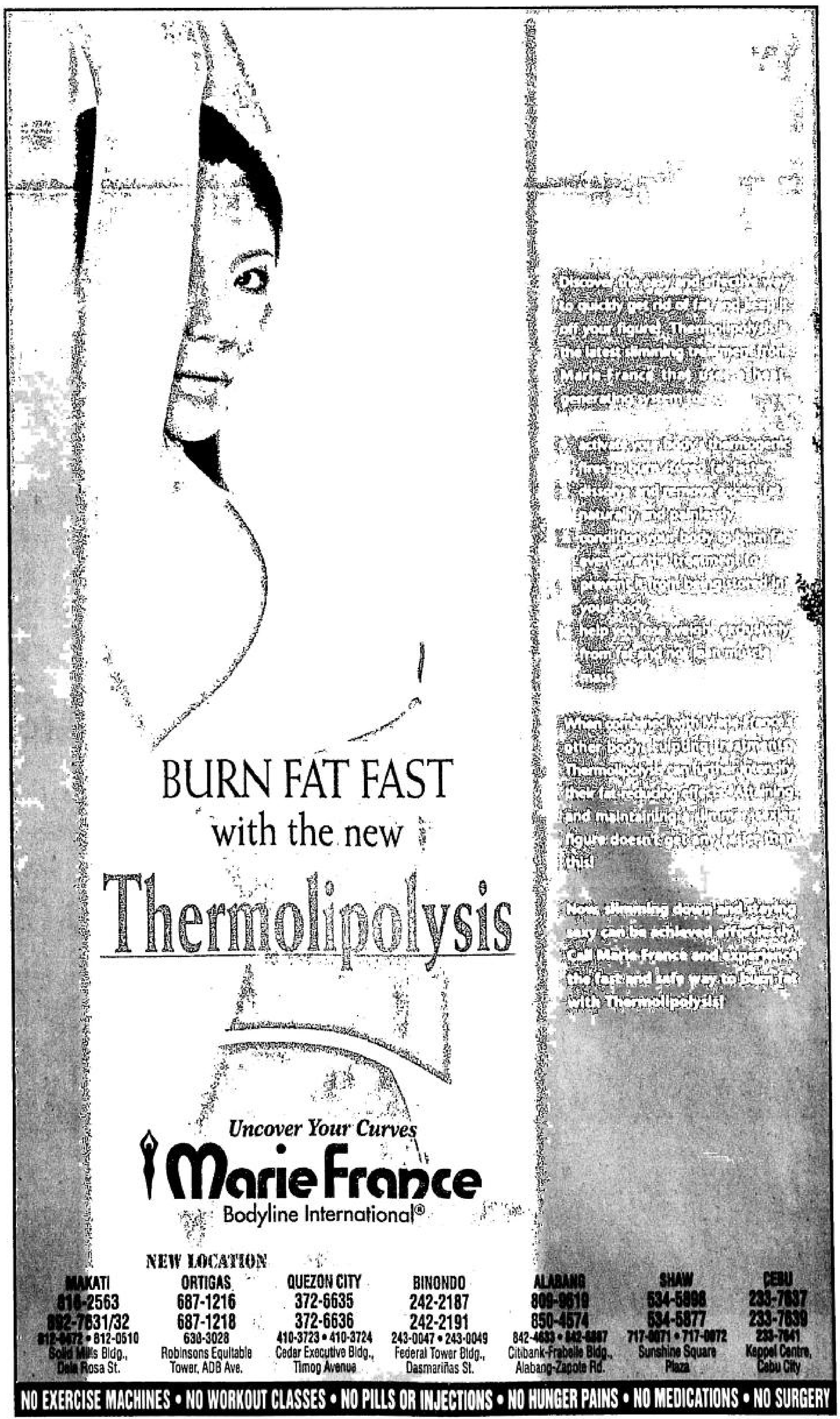

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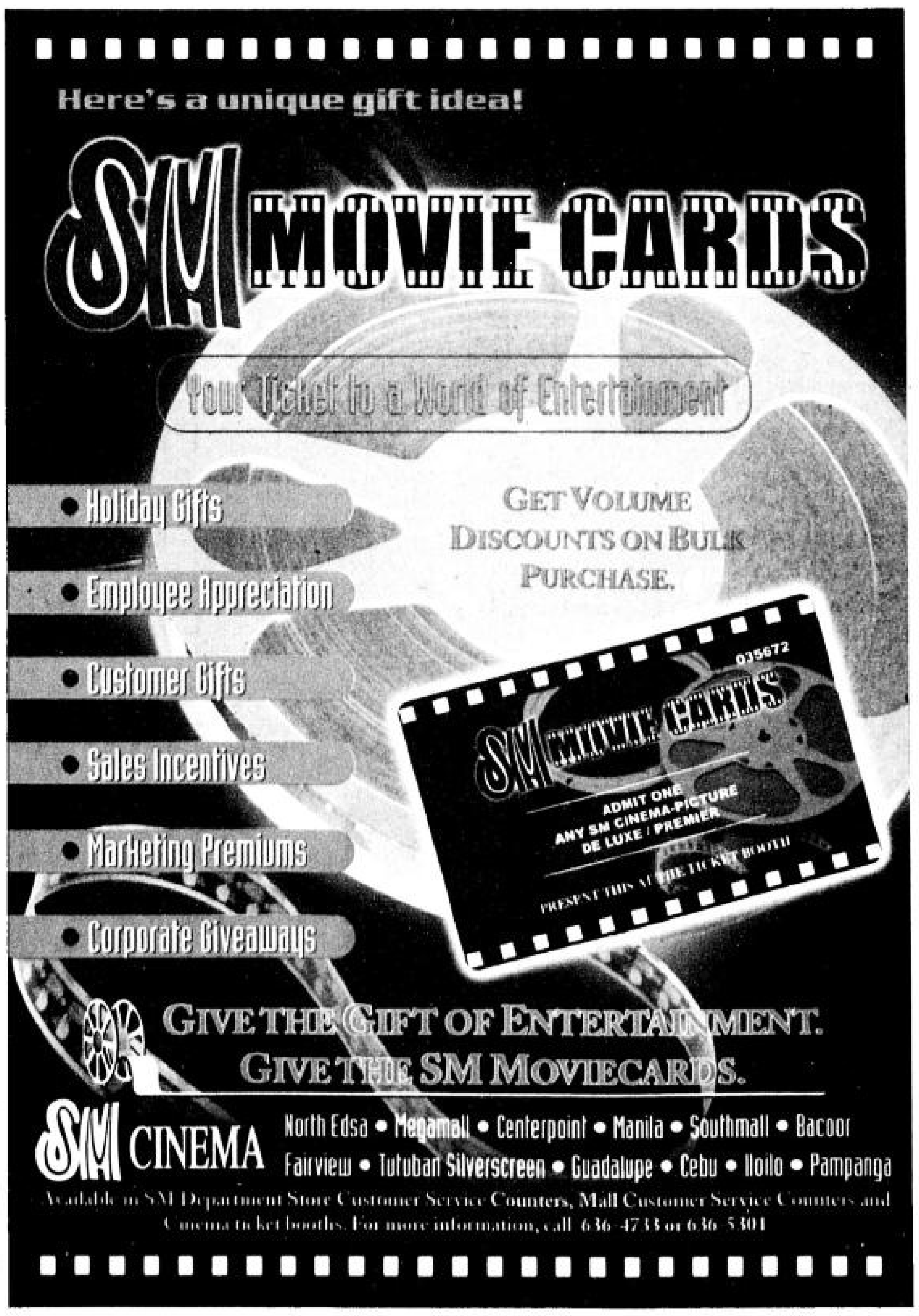

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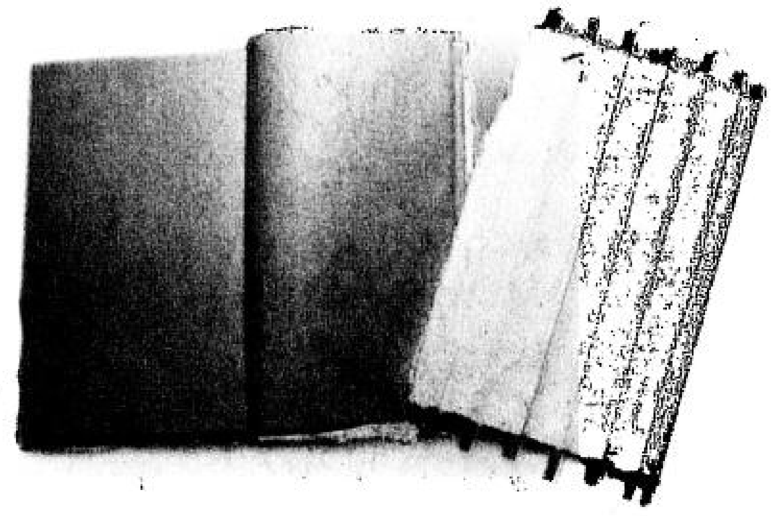
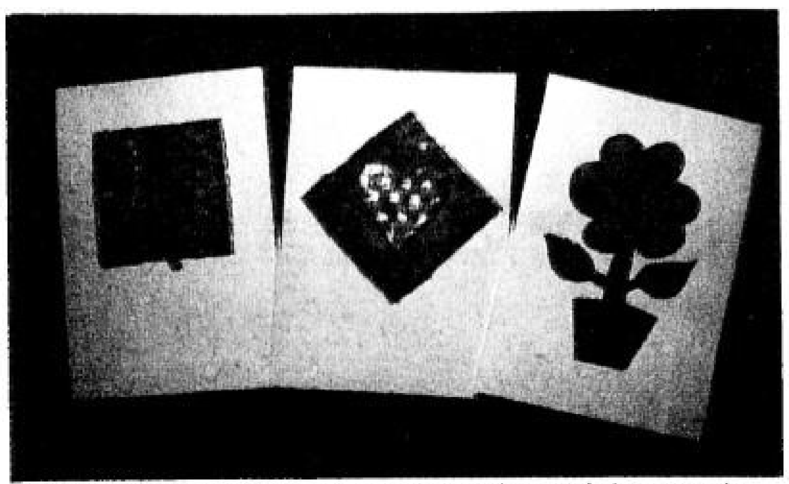
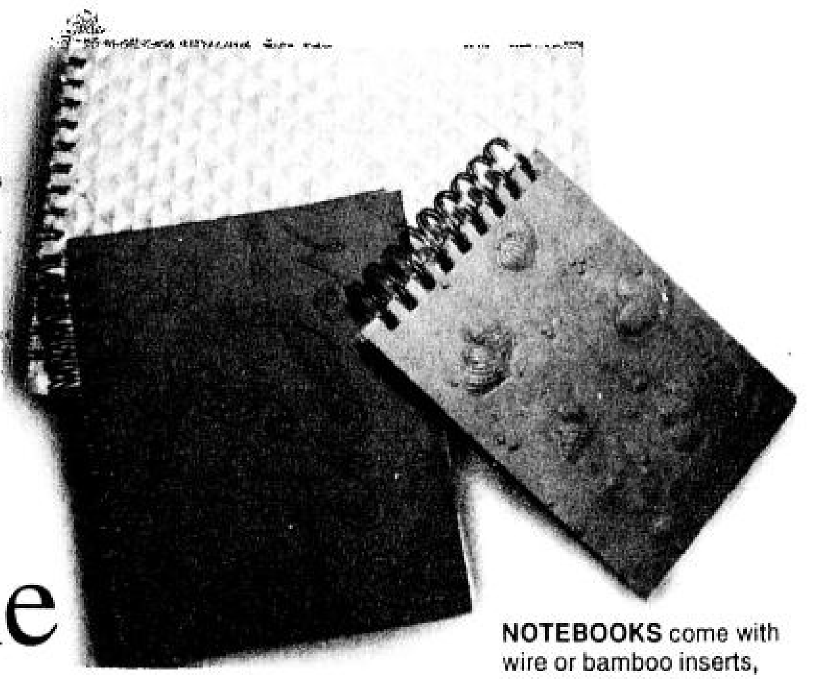




GIFT tags replicate designs on greeting cards; metal pins on each facilitate clipping on gifts.



NOTEBOOKS come with wire or bamboo inserts, spirals or plain binding.

Tony Gonzales transforms home pieces into functional art

BY DORIS G. NUYDA
PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

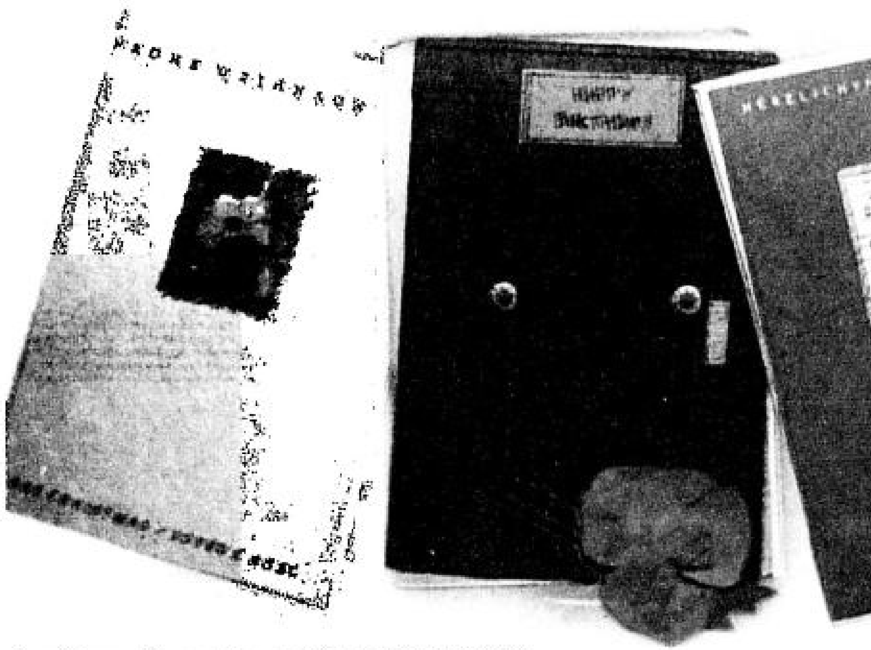
TONY Gonzales is an artist and sculptor who has moved on to functional art. He creates what he calls "lifestyle pieces" for the home—like lamps and votive candleholders, lights being much in demand these days. His main business, of course, is the creation of greeting cards and stationery (notebooks, gift cards), which is why it's called Greeting Card Company. But opportunities have come to expand his output, and he takes them as he sees fit.

The greeting cards are part of the paper business started by his father, Fred. Some years ago, Tony took over that business and in the process reinvented their greeting cards into personalized items with a one-of-a-kind look. They are as artistic as his paintings, and all quite unusual. Some of them feature miniature beads strung with fine thread; others are enhanced with metal cutouts of flowers, hearts, or geometrical designs. Though mass-produced, all are handmade and requiring intricate processes that would befuddle other manufacturers. But Tony does it, and his secret is no secret at all: he enlists the skills of nearby informal households (a.k.a. squatters) whom he employs.

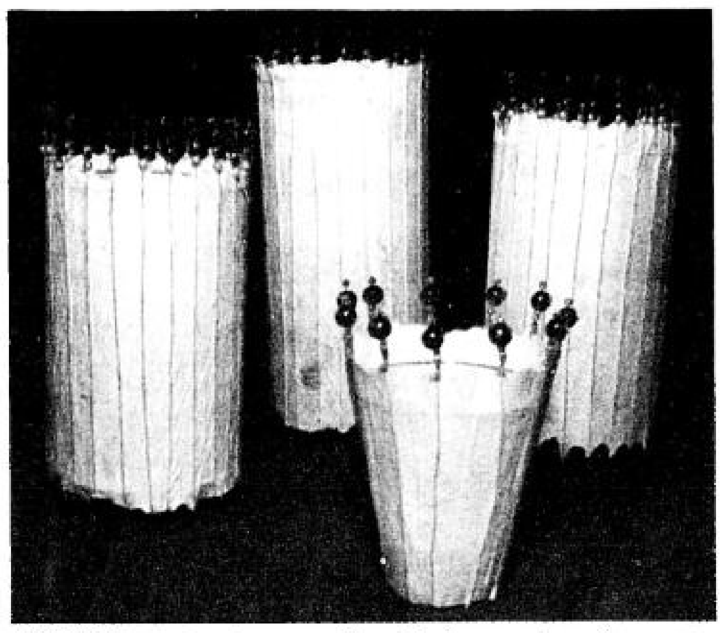
At the Citem (Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions) fair at the World Trade Center last April, however, he did not focus on his greeting cards and notebooks, but rather on his lifestyle ware. As product designer, his artistry is much in evidence. He sees the need for certain household articles and fills it by turning out beautiful, useful, unique items. For this purpose, he has, for the moment, set aside his sculptured freestanding table décor but hopes to revive it soon.

Eye-openers at the Citem show, for example, were his tall vases lined with glass and overlaid with an innovative material he calls "paper clay," the formula for which he'd rather not say just yet. The vases he displays are over a foot tall and come in either tubular or rectangular shapes.

There were also lamps and votive candleholders, their covers and/or shades uniquely made with bamboo or wire inserts.



ALL-OCCASION greeting cards (birthday, congratulatory, Christmas, etc.) are Gonzales' product mainstays.



VASES in varying sizes are either tubular or rectangular; some are wound in wicker, others overlaid with paper clay.

'Abaca' as main material

The common denominator in all his work is *abaca* or recycled paper, which is his main material. No tree cutting in his business, he assures us, just *abaca* pulp or reused paper. He explains that another family business, the GSG Group run by his sister Gigi, supplies him with his paper needs. GSG, incidentally, concentrates on the manufacture of *abaca* and recycled paper, producing these in different thicknesses and colors for a variety of purposes. GSG's other big seller, wrapping paper, comes in beautiful, embossed-like designs.

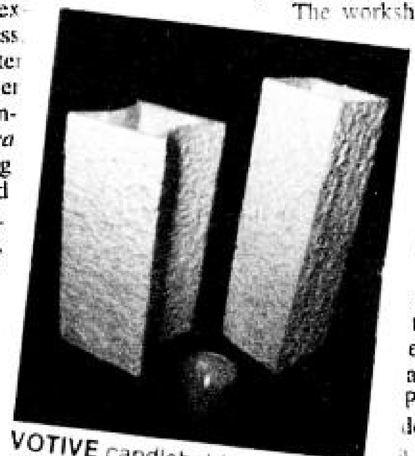
His own products, he says, make use to a large extent of the discards or leftovers of the paper with wire or wicker inserts, spiraled and plain book-bound. The paper used is its own distinction.

Gonzales adds that not only does his business make use of recycled paper, it also uses indigenous or recycled materials to accessorize them. For instance, some of his vases have wicker strips wound around them, as do the votive candleholders, and the metal strips used as greeting and gift card décor are usually recovered from junk piles. His greeting cards are not likely to be sold here, he informs us, because their buyer is a German firm that markets them abroad. Gonzales has established contacts abroad that keep him well occupied. He does workshops, for instance, sponsored by another German greeting card company—Pearleberg—to which other designers are invited. Three other Filipinos are regular participants in these workshops—Tes Pasola, Jon Anasco and Tristan Ampil.

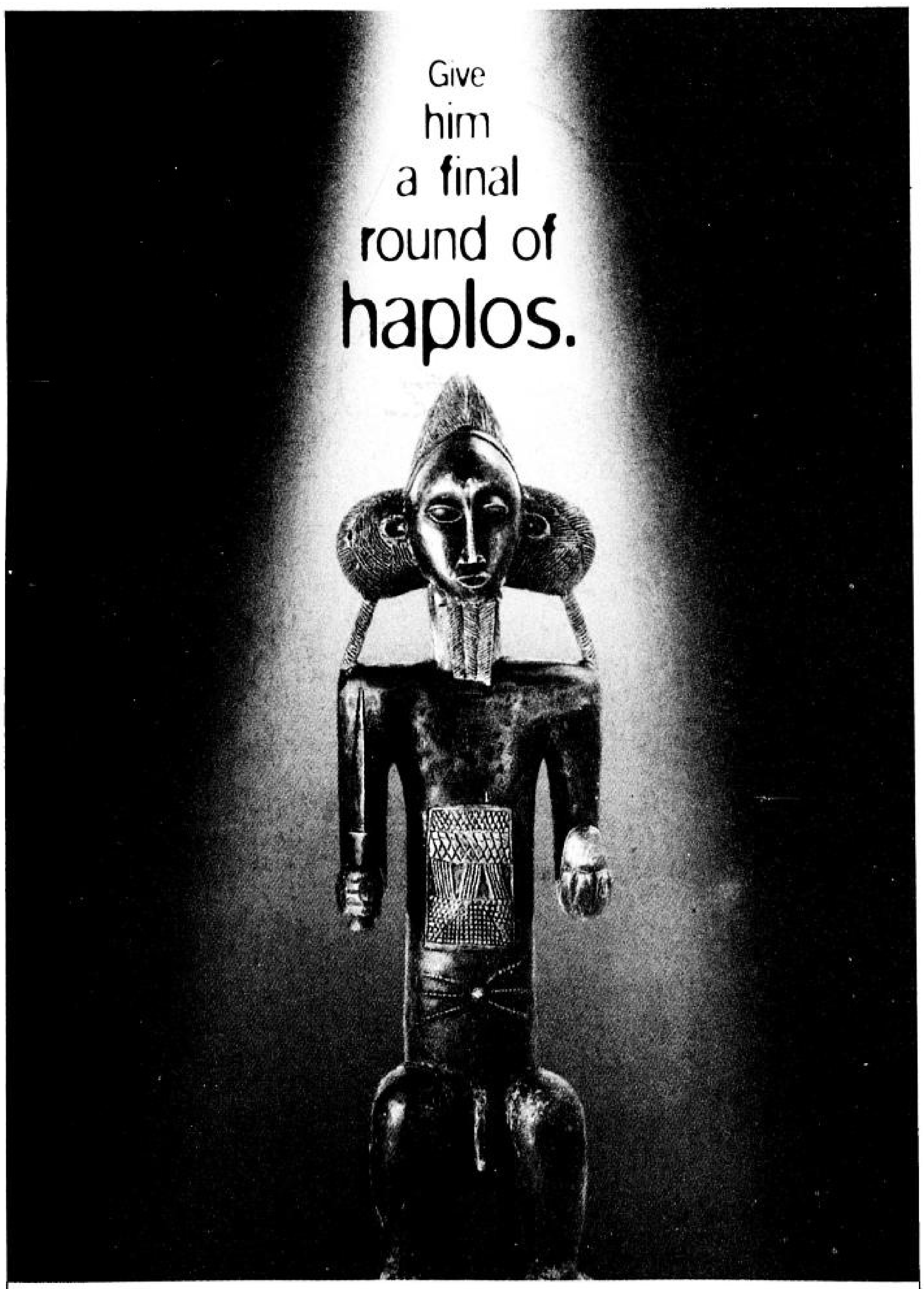
The workshops started 10 years ago in the Philippines, five of which were conducted here. The others were held in the US (New York and Florida), Spain (Mallorca), Germany (Essen and Bouehum). Designers invited come from all over the world and belong to different artistic disciplines.

These workshops came way ahead of Movement 8, the prestigious group of Filipino designers and manufacturers who go around the world showing off Philippine styles in furniture and decorative "lifestyle pieces," to use a Gonzales term, in trade shows and fairs. Gonzales was among the original members (thus the name, Movement 8) who joined the first show in Valencia, Spain. Their number has since grown to 16. They have made such a favorable impact that their products now bear the brand "Made in the Philippines—Movement 8."

As this is written, the group is getting ready to go to New York for another show but commitments here at home will prevent Gonzales from joining this time.



VOTIVE candleholders are made of wired paper with bead décor.



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What the horoscope says about election winners

THE ELECTION results are going to be an important turning point in the history of the country. The winners have the potential of initiating a new phase in the country's history and development. Their decisions of will have an effect whose full impact would be felt only 28 years from now. These are among what Resti H. Santiago, www.pinoyastrologer.com's founder, has deduced through his studies on the Philippine horoscope chart of July 4, 1946.

PinoyAstrologer.com, in its efforts to introduce the wonders of astrology to the people, has come up with a list of senatorial aspirants favored by the stars. These conclusions are arrived at not by statistics or political analysis, but by a detailed study of the planetary influence on each of the candidates.

Those who are highly favored by the stars are Joker Arroyo, Franklin Drilon, Juan Flavier, Ernesto Herrera, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Solita Monsod, Serge Osmeña III, Francis Pangilinan, Wigberto Tañada, Manny Villar, Edgardo Angara and Noli de Castro. These can be the magic 12 who have a very high probability of winning. Generally these candidates are undergoing expansive influence from Jupiter and from the compatibility of their progressed planets with the country's progressed planets.

At the tail-end can be either be Ralph Recto or Miriam Defensor Santiago. Santiago is a lucky Gemini. Those who have 50-50 chances of winning are Loi Estrada, Jamby Madrigal and Orly Mercado. These candidates have conflicting influences in their horoscope charts. Juan Ponce Enrile remains a wild card because his sign belongs to the unpredictable Aquarius; he is undergoing difficulties in his progressed horoscope.

To know more about what the stars say about the country, log on to www. pinoyastrologer.com. PinoyAstrologer.com is the total astrology site in the Philippines and it offers surfers free astrology computation and interpretation.

Model-TV host makes stage debut

MOVIE actor, top male model and TV host Chris Garcia makes his professional stage debut in the restaging of Actor's Actors Inc.'s much-acclaimed "Mother Tongue" this weekend at Onstage, Greenbelt.

A familiar face, Chris has brooding good looks that have been prominent in billboards, magazine covers and television commercials. Although this is his first professional foray onstage, "Mother Tongue" director Chris Millado has expressed amazement at the instinctiveness and polish of his "acting."

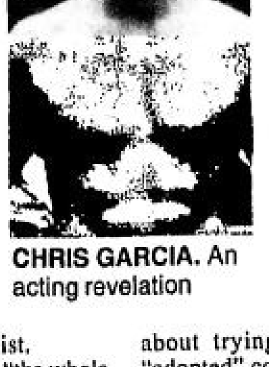
"He seems so sure-footed it's hard to believe he hasn't been doing this before on a regular basis," Millado says. Stepping in as study student Eric Swanson, Garcia brings an earthy sexiness to a role that was previously played with wholesome athleticism by Myx VJ Ed Feist.

Costar Bart Guingona further adds that "the whole cast was impressed with Chris' timing and his choices. He gives Eric Swanson a whole different dimension and it's really exciting to see him unfold onstage."

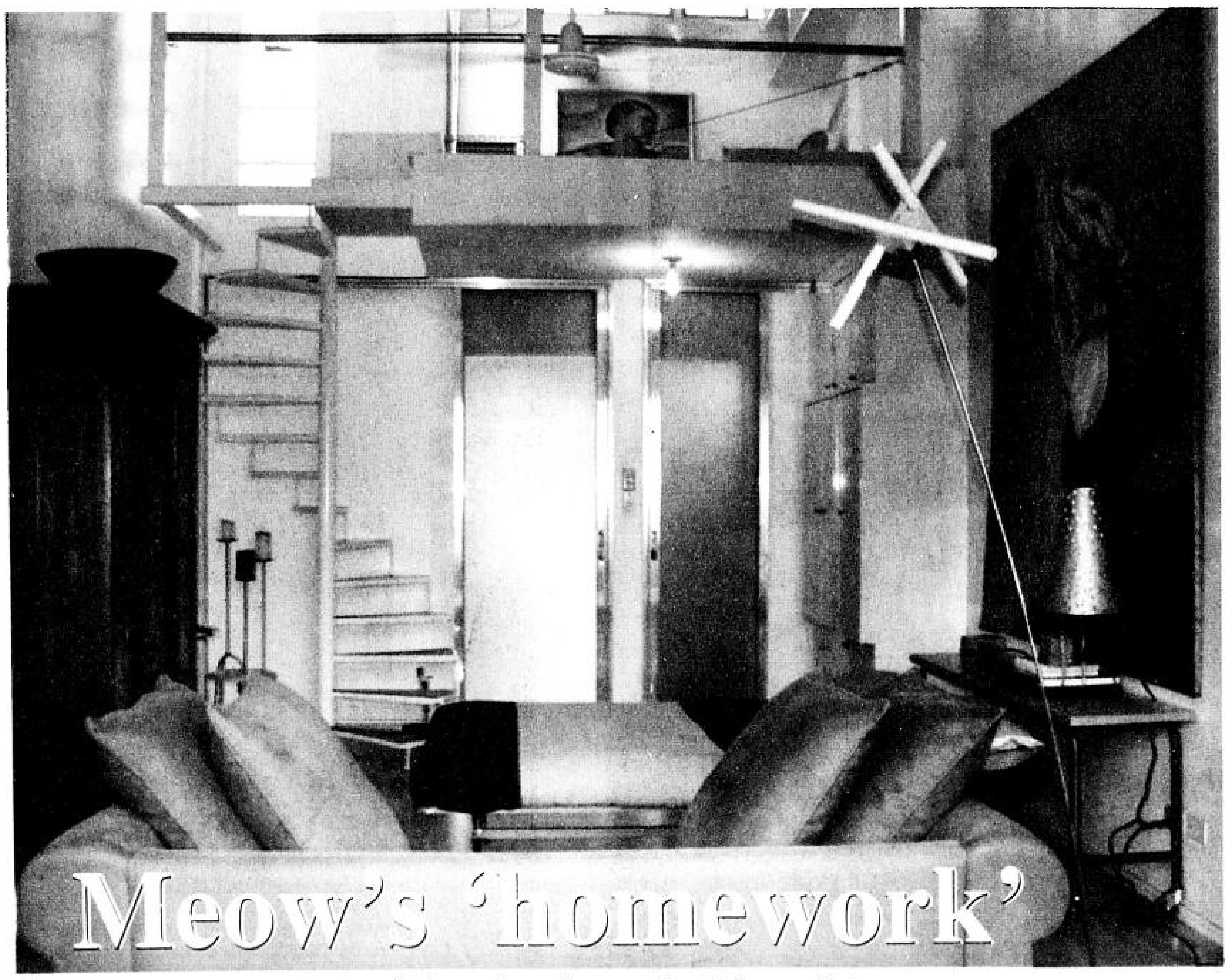
"Mother Tongue" is a semiautobiographical drama-comedy by a Chinese-Filipino expatriate in the United States who teaches English at Kansas University. The play examines David Lee's life, his loves, his lineage and his aspirations, and asks the questions we all find ourselves facing at one time or another in our lives: "Can we pursue personal happiness regardless of our past? Can we cut off our mother tongue and pretend that only the present and the future exists?"

In scenes that are clever and touching, two incarnations of his mother—the young picture bride from Amoy and the aging battle axe in Manila—permanently share the stage of David's thoughts as heroes about trying to assimilate and function in an "adopted" country.

"Mother Tongue" goes to Onstage, Greenbelt on May 18 and 19, 8 p.m. Call AAI at 536-5844 or Onstage Greenbelt at 752-7862 and 893-6767.



CHRIS GARCIA. An acting revelation



Meow's 'homework'

ALUMINUM framed doors may not be elegant but they are low maintenance and go with the casual look.

MULTI-TASKING. A console doubles as a headboard. Apa Ongpin's portrait and the perforated metal lamp enliven the decor.

BY AVIE GOCHOCO-PEREZ
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

An adman finds a place to live and work in as well as a place to indulge his peculiar design philosophy

IT took us a couple of turns around Kamagong and Metropolitan Avenue in Makati and asking three or four persons along the way before we finally found the condominium. But how could anyone not miss Sunshine Condominium? Its paint job has seen better days. Half of its façade is a driveway to the condo's garage and the remaining half is a sad-looking sitting room for the building security guard and the drivers of the unit owners.

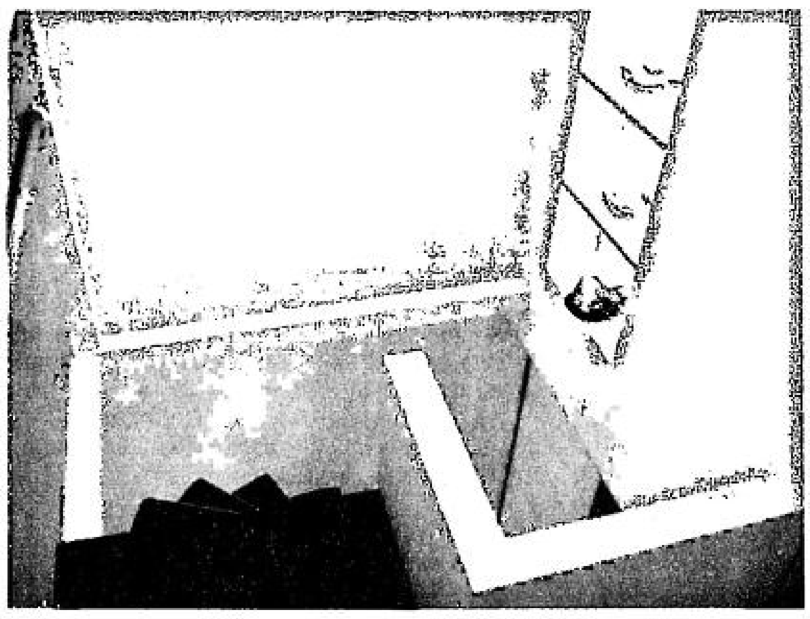
Fronting the guard's desk is the first of the building's three staircases. I see no elevator although I notice the nameplate of an elevator company stuck to a door on the ground floor. "*Oro, plata, mata,*" I recite mentally as I trudge upstairs to the third floor. Each time, I count 13 steps. Each time, I end up with "*oro.*" I tell myself that's something positive.

On the third floor, sunshine does shine through, in a manner of speaking. On a far side of the condo building is the office of I-Kon Manila, art director Meow Ferrer's white-washed "homework," christened so by a friend. Why the name? The condo unit, all 140 sq m of it, up and down, is where Meow both works and lives.

Before purchasing the unit in January last year, Meow was already thinking of leaving the 6-year-old advertising agency he had set up with friends. A multinational ad agency then offered him the post of executive art director at its Bangkok office, but he turned it down. "When you've experienced having your own agency, I don't think *na babalik ka* [to being employed again]. Of course, I wanted to put up another ad agency," he said.

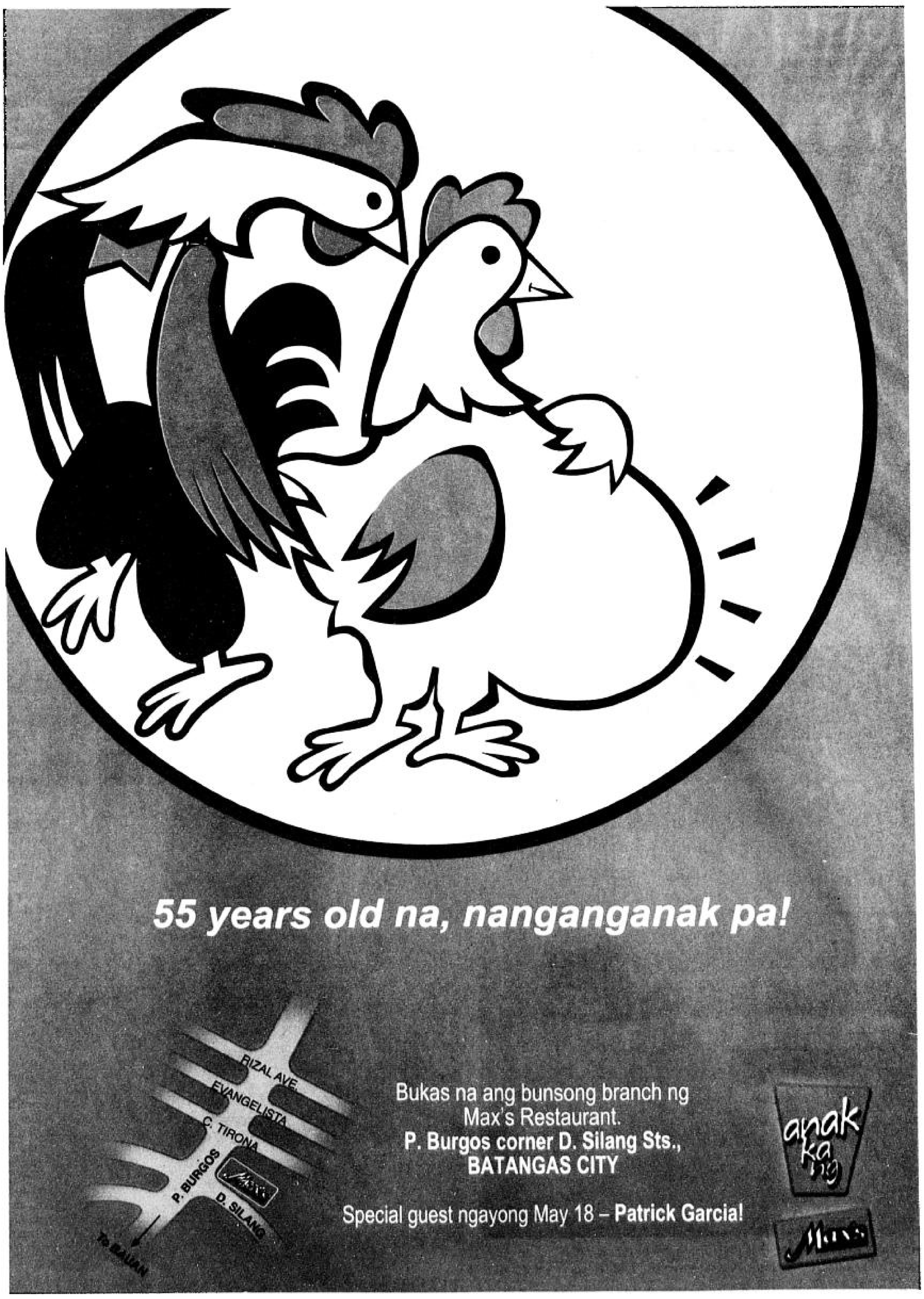
He bumped into former advertising colleague Cynthia Jose "in the gym" last year. It was with her, later on, that he would set up I-Kon Manila, an ad agency specializing in advertising, graphics, casting and events.

MEOW'S/ p.G4



THE FLOATING exposed beams and squared-off railings create architectural interest in the stairwell.

INSTEAD of a boring, blank wall, niches are made to display the owner's collection.



55 years old na, nanganganak pa!

Bukas na ang bunsong branch ng
Max's Restaurant.
P. Burgos corner D. Silang Sts.,
BATANGAS CITY

Special guest ngayong May 18 – **Patrick Garcia!**

FERRER'S decorative style disregards norms such as balanced symmetry. The style is based on economical solutions to a decorator's dilemma. The main table doubles as a storage. The cabinets at the base are made of ribbed glass.

Meow's 'homework'

(From page G3)

Meow remembers liking Unit 4-6 of Sunshine Condominium when he first saw it. Yes, instantly. "I saw it in December of 1999, before Christmas. *Gusto ko talaga. Alam ko mapapaganda ko. Gusto kong mag*-interior *na*," he said.

'Vibes'

A month later, Meow bought the unit. He knew he couldn't afford to pitch tent on Ayala Avenue and the Kamagong address couldn't be such a bad alternative. He was convinced that real property prices were down: plunking in P3.4 million for the unit felt manageable enough. Best of all, he said the unit had "vibes" that he liked. He knew that he could put the unit to use not only as an office but also as his home.

Being part-Chinese, Meow saw what make the Chinese successful in business. "*Simple sila mamuhay*. They have humility. *Hindi sila mayabang*. The Chinese concept is to maximize everything. I saw we can apply that concept in this new millennium to deal with the economic crisis. *Kailangang maging* smart and practical."

The renovated unit is reflective of those concepts. It is simple and is ruled by clean lines. There are no ornate carvings anywhere. Nothing cries out to be noticed. Restraint seems to be a Meow rule in decorating so that he now has a peacefully productive office-cum-home ambiance that would be the real envy of many young entrepreneurs today.

Being smart and practical meant converting the first level of Unit 4-6 to an office and "*sa taas ang bahay*," just like in old Binondo.

Meow's home/office is his masterpiece in white. Once inside, you forget that you are *in* face-lift-hungry Sunshine Condominium. It feels like a masterfully converted loft: it is bright, airy, organized, cozy, artistic, industrial, soft, homey, private, efficient, inexpensive, elegant—it is all of these in a tall rectangular box.

As one enters the door, a couple of computers to the right signify I-Kon's casting arm; in front is the sitting room, sparsely furnished but surrounding the walls are a full-length and -width mirror serving to "enlarge" the space and Popo San Pascual's unframed painting of a doll named "Lucy"; and to the left are more computers signifying the boundary for the agency's graphics and advertising arms.

A big white ball sits on an elevated wooden tray beside the sofa. Meow takes it up in his arms, saying it is a purchase made in a neighboring country.

Look, he says, this ball-lamp doesn't heat up even if left lit for long periods.

Meow seems to like simple things that are not limited to one function.

Enhancement

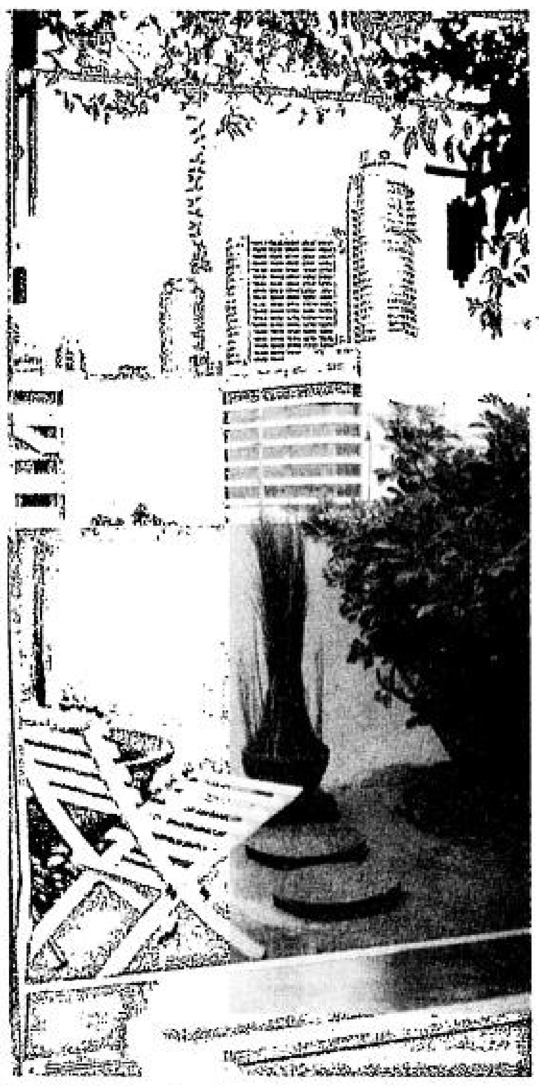
He also likes throwing an expensive thing or two into this or that corner, positioning them oh so casually that tends to enhance the worth of both object and owner. Two yellow Philippe Starck hard plastic chairs—P7,500 each—sit nonchalantly in Meow's unit: one in a corner of the living/reception room and the other upstairs, against the wall of the second room, near the pocket garden.

A long wooden table, which Meow himself designed, held up underneath by glass-fronted cabinets, doubles as storage for Meow's paperwork, apart from being a dining table and conference table. "I asked someone who participated in a furniture exhibit in Megamall if he could make something I designed. This is it and this cost only P18,000," Meow says proudly.

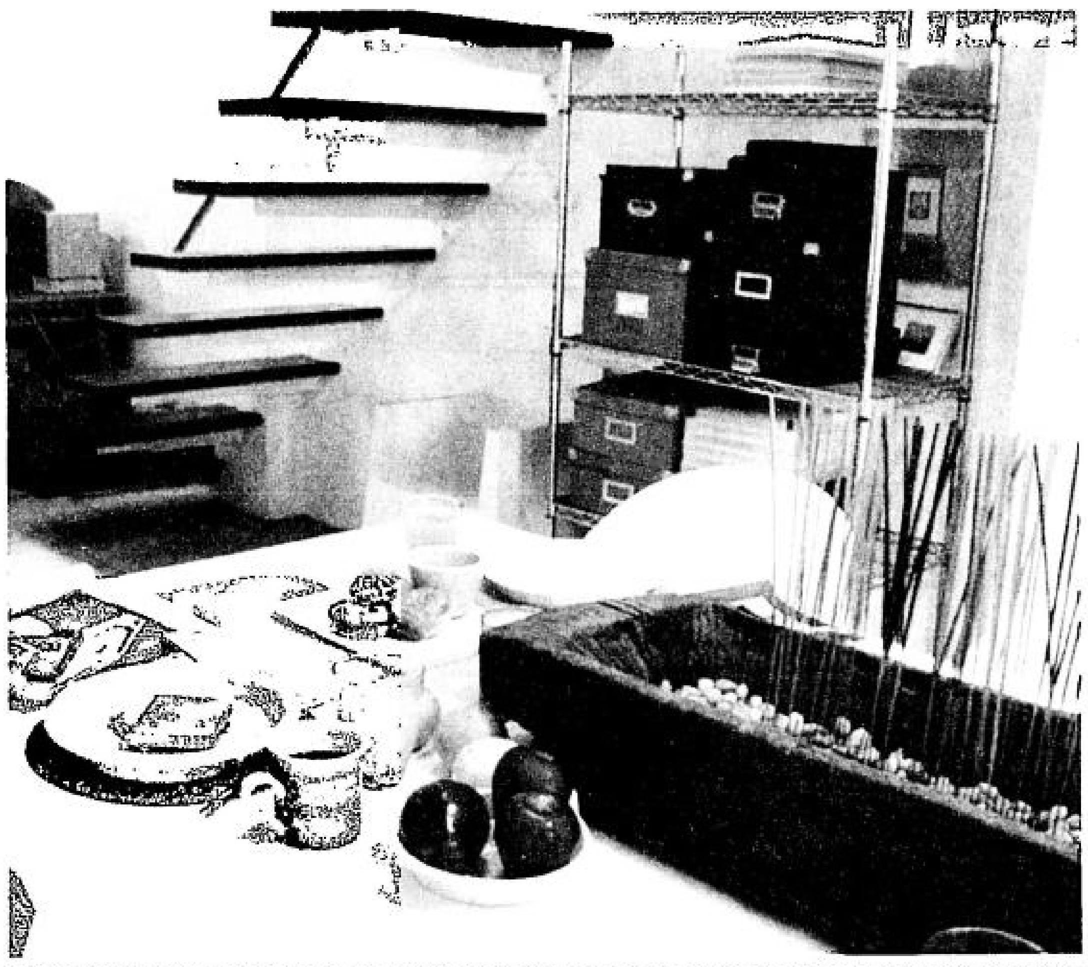
Within reach from one end of the table is the stove where Meow's loyal and trusted housekeeper was frying the day's lunch the day we spoke. Beyond is what looks like the pantry and a small restroom. What are in those tall cabinets on the walls? I ask Meow, pointing to the cabinets behind him as we sat at the long table. "They hold my shoes," he replies, standing to open one door to reveal shelf upon shelf of shoes. Oh, yes, after all, this is home.

Amazingly, it took Meow only three weeks—yes, less than a month—to transform the unit he had bought into the sleek, cosmopolitan loft it is

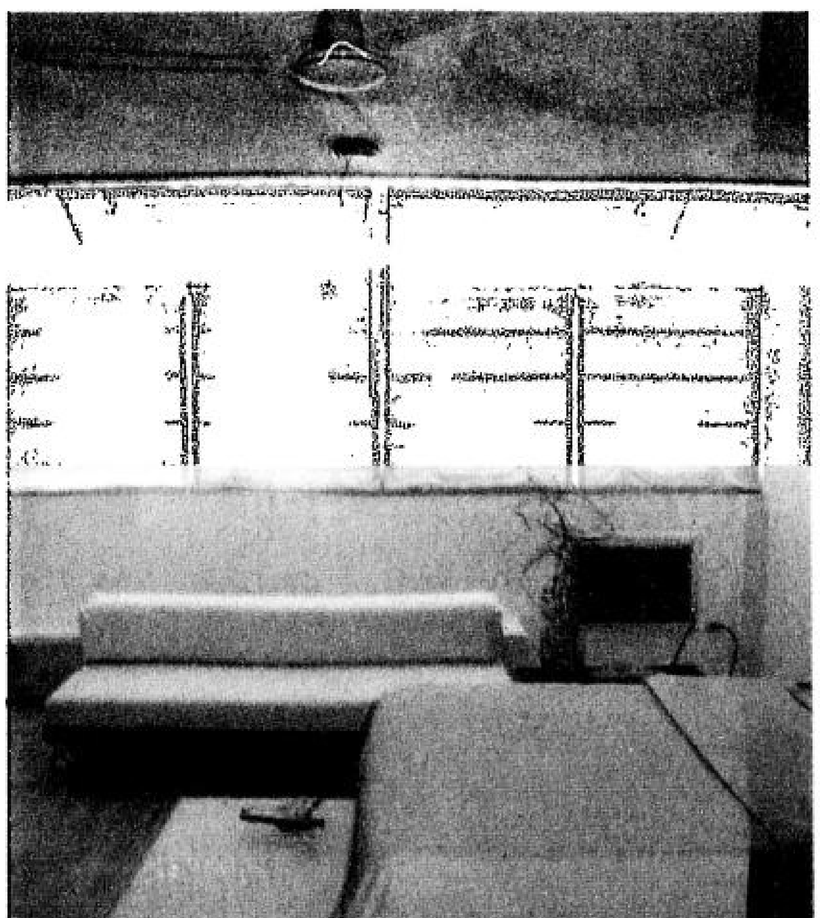
MEOW'S/ p.G4



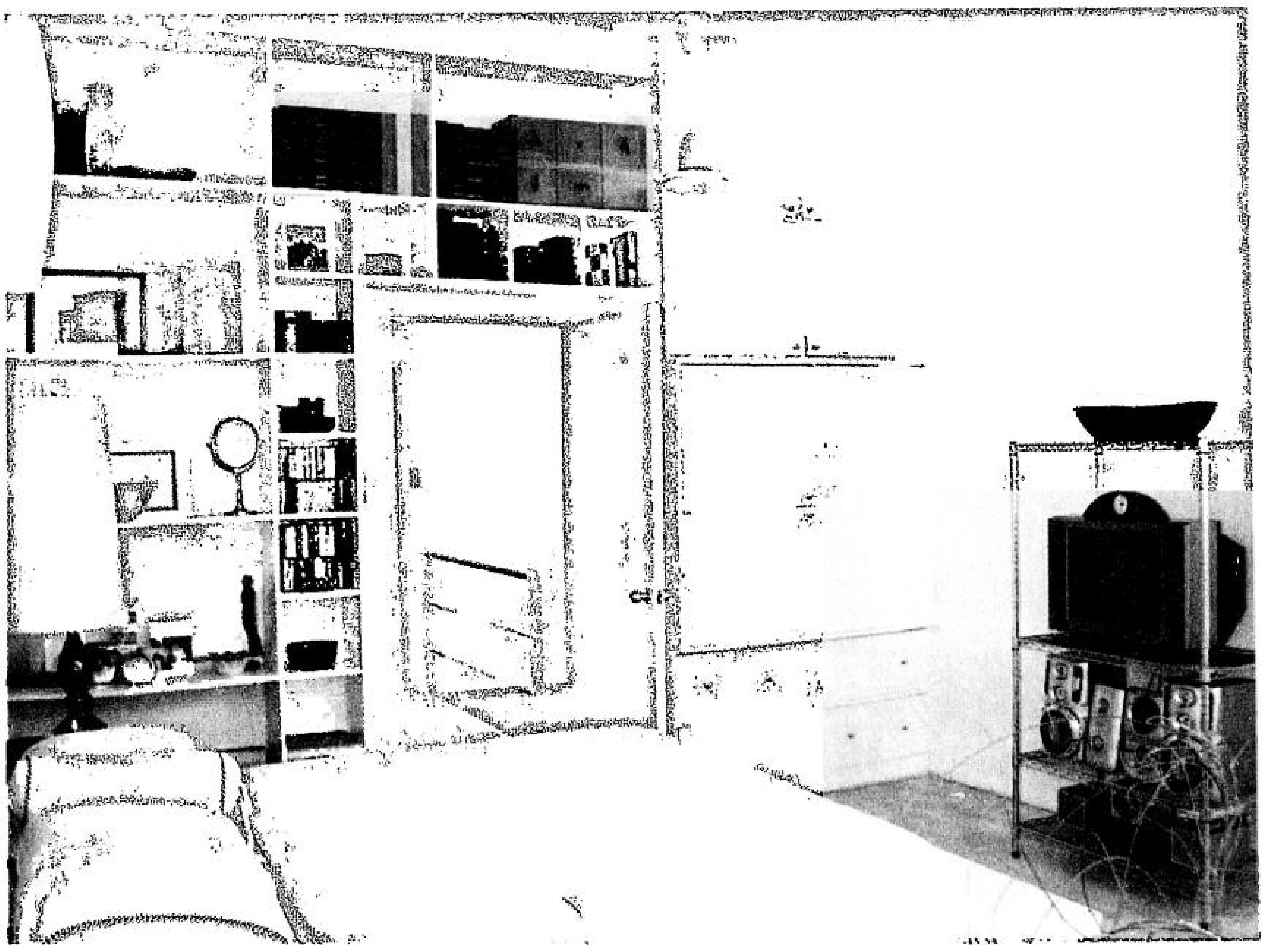
STYLIZED garden is a refreshing sight in Makati.



THE WORK-CUM-DINING space exudes an industrial feel. The stairs with open stringers open up the space. Another decorating tip: A *travesia* is hollowed and made into an incense holder and centerpiece.



THE SKYLIGHT gives the clue that the master bedroom once had an open balcony. Take a tip from Ferrer: A platform with industrial casters is a cheap way to make a sofa.



THE SHELVES maximize the use of space. Mondrian-style cupboards give textural interest.

Meow's 'homework'

(From page G4)

today. "*Talagang tutok,*" he says. "*May* excitement *kasi sa iyo 'yung* place." He would visit the unit at lunchbreak. He drew the architectural plans, costings and instructions on the walls, not on paper. The exercise was good because everyone could see the walls.

"Everyone" meant each of up to 30 workers working shifts. When they took down the wooden ceiling because Meow wanted a higher one, a spray of electrical wires rained down on them. "*Parang ahas,*" Meow shakes his head. Forthwith, he had the wires organized and bunched into the pipes running on both ends of the ceiling. White paint then went on the pipes, unifying them with the white ceiling.

Emphasis

Next, Meow further emphasized the height of the ceiling, which rose from the first to the second floor by running two separate lengths of industrial wire from the stairs to the top of the ceiling. This way, the wires look as if they hold up the stairs, giving a feel of lightness and space. A stainless steel pipe gleams, serving as handrail to the staircase.

Two bedrooms, separated by a narrow hall space (but feels hardly that because of white, white and more white), make up the second floor. The master bedroom to the left has skylight streaming down on it from the top of what used to be an open balcony. It has been reclaimed as interior space and is enclosed in glass.

Meow pulls aside a rod just under that glass ceiling to draw the canvas Roman shade aside. It reveals the sky, with its light streaming down on an extra bed on wheels a little distance from the master bed. Again, the room is sparsely decorated: only the black TV set breaks the light colors of the objects in the room.

A mesh of fragile, dried branches rises from a vase beside the bed, its brown delicately set off by the white wall behind it. And this beauty was not even store-bought. It is what remains of a plant that had died. The artist in Meow breathed new life into the dead. Today, the plant is "alive" in his room, a one-of-a-kind object of art.

Buddha's head graces a niche in the hallway, as do other unobtrusive art objects. Again, a large, unframed painting hangs on the wall. A big painting on the wall gives the illusion of big space, Meow says.

The other room's bed has for its virtual headboard a giant painting of a man in native dress doing a folk dance. The painting can evoke a smile from an observer, because the man's stance looks like he is in between doing the dance and running away. The man in the painting is Apa Ongpin, says Meow.

Neutral bathroom

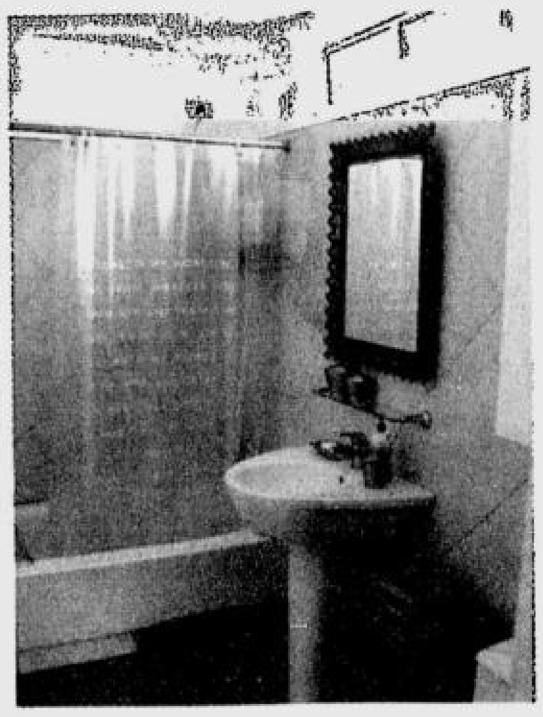
The bathroom serving the two rooms is small but Meow has dressed it up in large neutral beige tiles set in the diagonal "to give the space movement." A shorter-than-standard bathtub that also serves as shower area occupies one end of the bathroom. Meow splurged on a designer wash basin, set on a pedestal, and his water closet, again both in white.

Outside the second bedroom is a pocket garden, as small as pocket gardens go. Two glass doors, framed in aluminum, open out to this space which is Meow's favorite spot. It is where the gurgling sound of water on a big vat surrounded by plants and, whimsically, orange little rubber duckies, soothes his tired mind, his frayed nerves. It is where greenery grows healthily. It is where birds come by every morning to chirp away amid the concrete jungle surrounding Meow's "homework."

The disadvantages to living where you also work? "Sometimes, you don't know when to stop working," Meow grins. Also, "*sa gamit,*" one sometimes can't distinguish between what's personal and what's for office use. Still, say, in electric consumption, Meow can comfortably predict the monthly bill. With hardly any air conditioning used, the bill stays relatively pat at P2,500 a month. For air circulation, Meow has dotted his unit with ceiling fans.

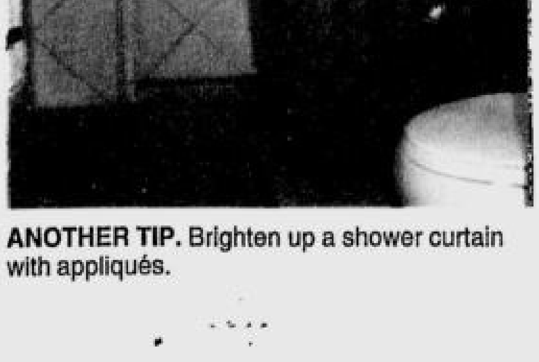
The unit has acquired such a beautiful inner space that even the condo building owner who sold him the unit has asked that he get a first crack if Meow ever decides to sell it.

For now, it is going to be an endless wait. Meow has settled for good. He has found a place for his various callings: artist, entrepreneur, and now, as interior designer. Unit 4-6 could very well be his best showcase for the last. That is, if you find Sunshine Condominium first.

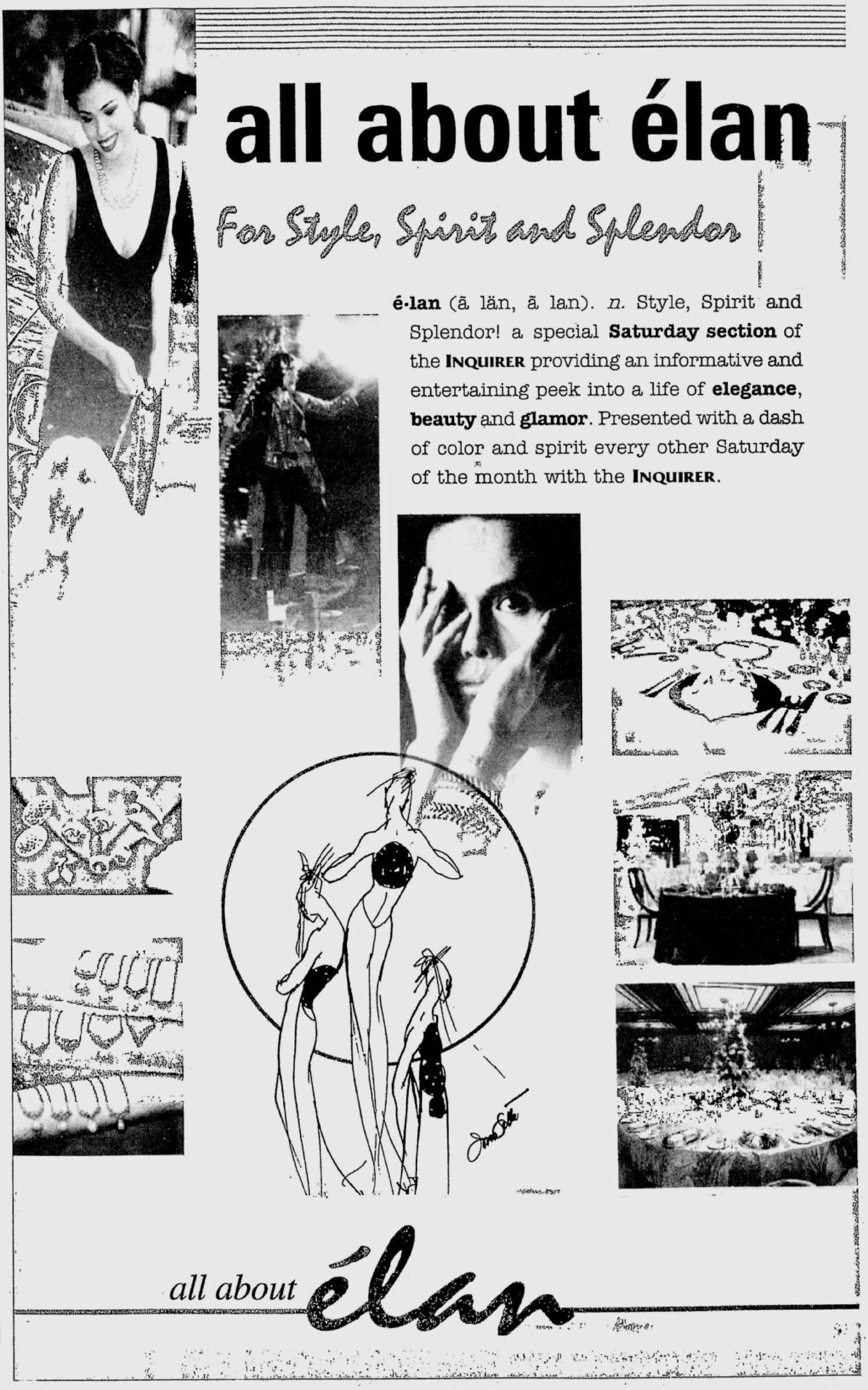


THE OVERSCALED tiles set diagonally, choice shower curtains and a mirror with interesting frames makes a bathroom more interesting aside from the Philippe Starck wash basin.

VIEW of the space from th9 loft



ANOTHER TIP. Brighten up a shower curtain with appliqués.



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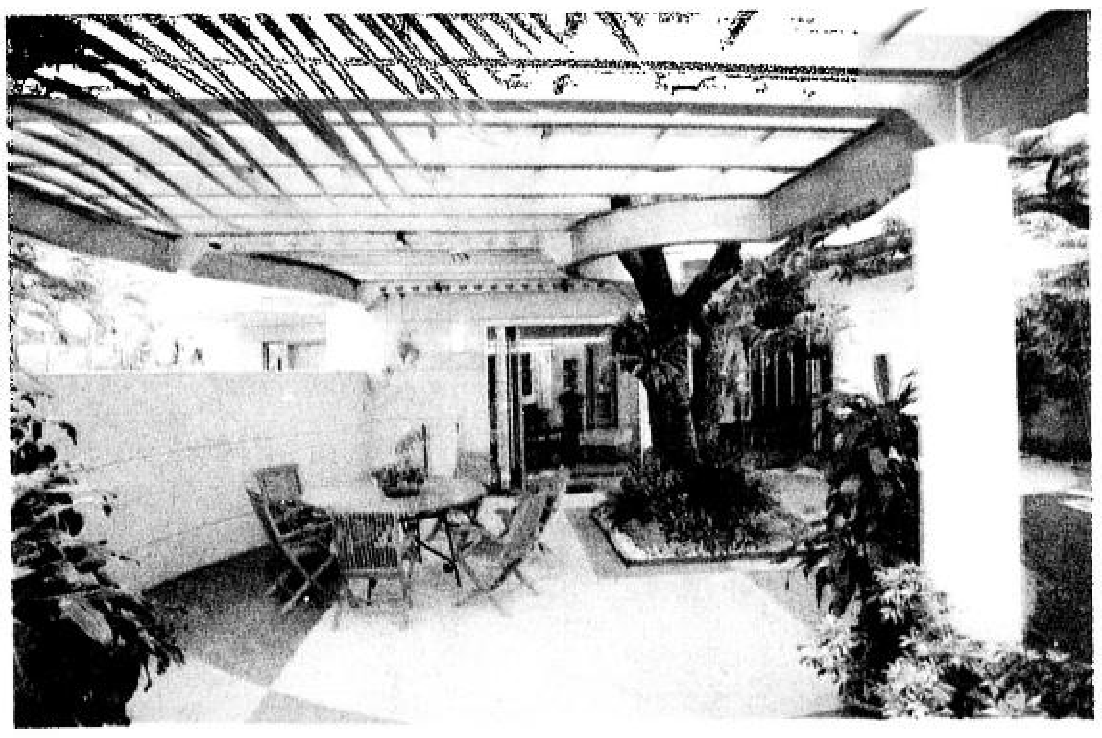
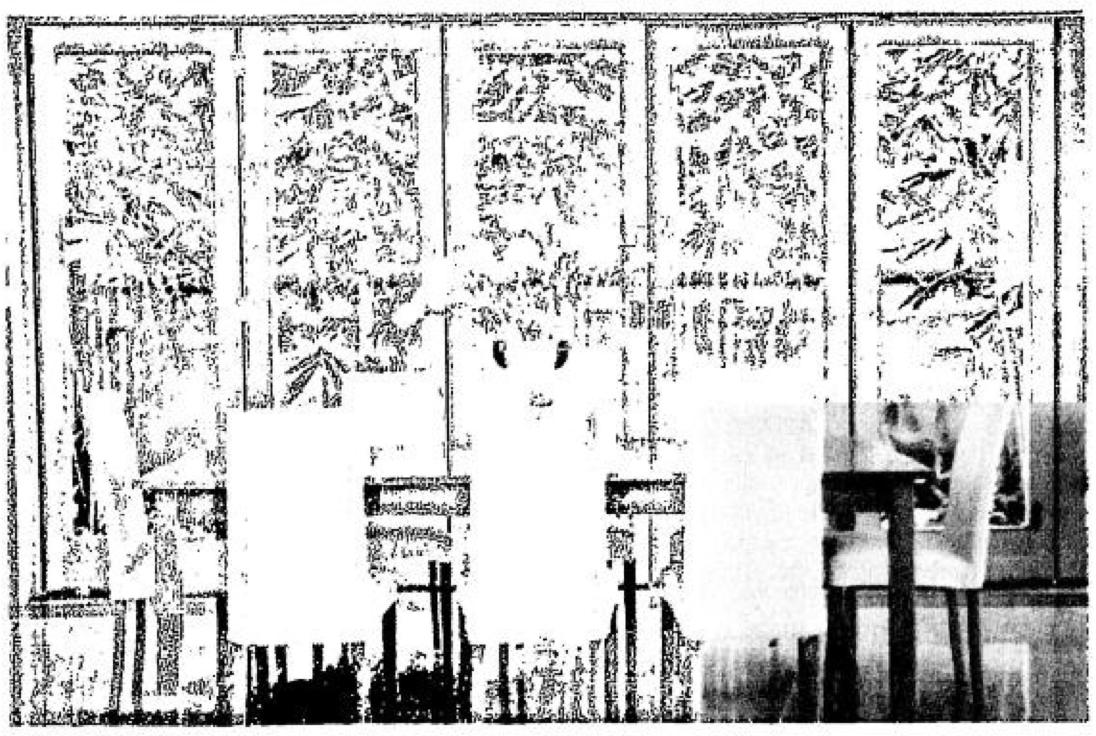
all about élan



COVERED COURT. The lanai is separated from the driveway with a perimeter wall the follows the curves of the metal beams, which supports the lanai's greenish roof. Note how a beam works its way around the mango tree.



THE DINING area with a view of a pocket garden of bamboo plants.

Putting Filipino soul in a Scandinavian house

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA
PHOTOS BY BOBOT MERU

WHEN this family set out to build its dream home in Ayala-Alabang a few years ago, the husband wanted a modern house with stark lines, muted shades, high ceilings and huge glass windows. The wife shared his vision, but felt such a house would look downright cold and alien in a tropical setting.

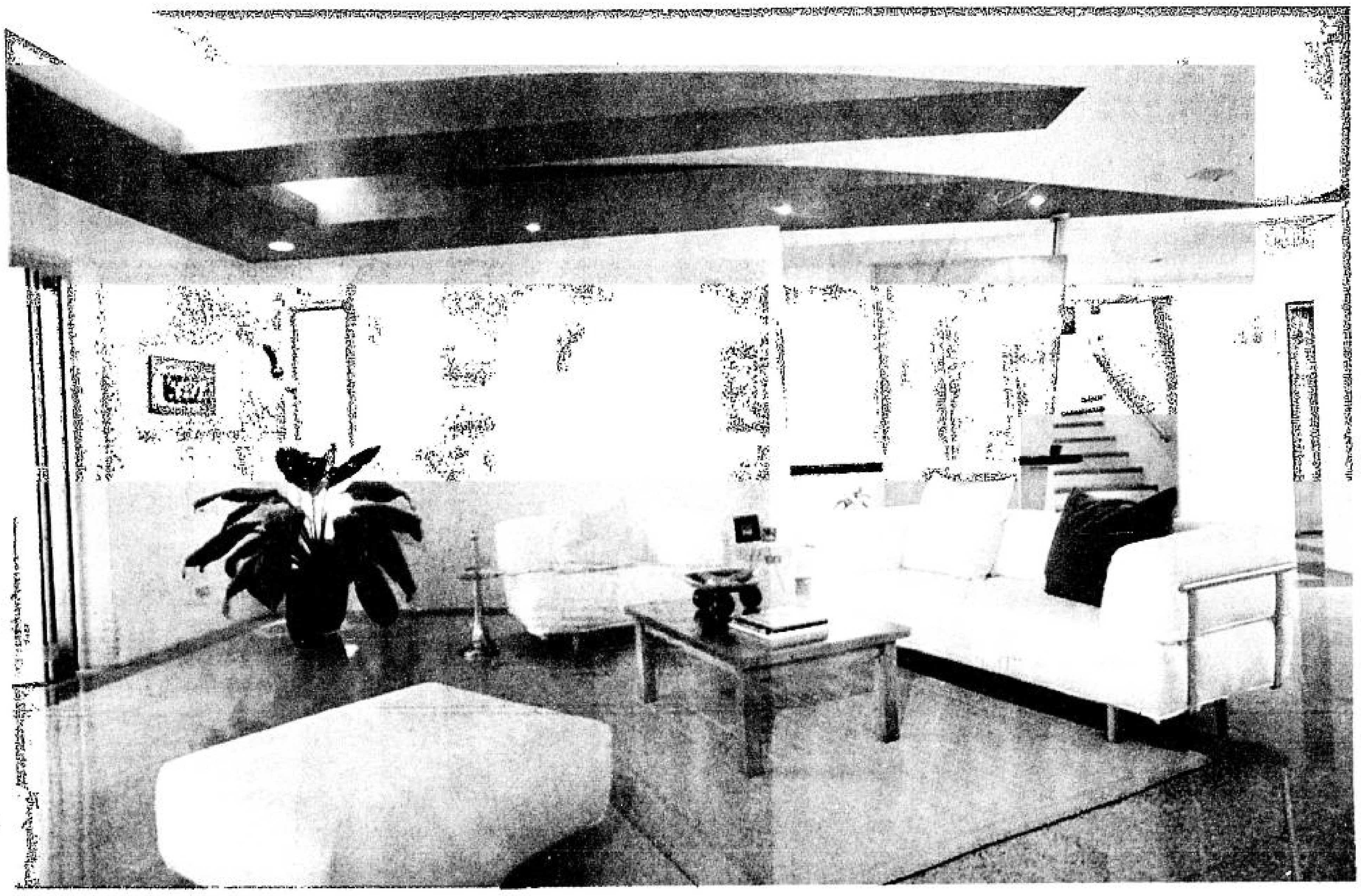
By deriving inspiration from the couple's two young children, architect Renato Manzano came up with a home that exudes the modernity of a Scandinavian dwelling without losing the warmth and sense of family so rooted in the Filipino soul.

"My wife kept me grounded," says the husband, who requested anonymity. "She suggested we include certain touches, such as warm colors in the bathrooms and bedrooms to make the house look more homey."

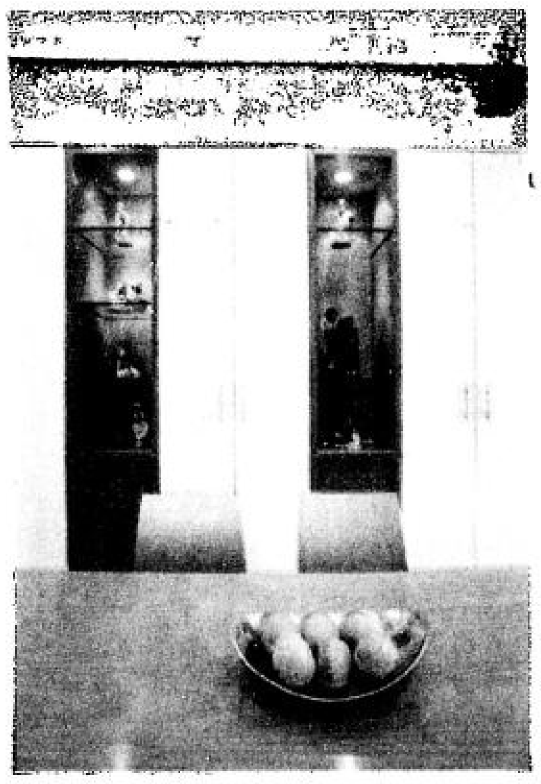
"Clean lines and understated colors are fine if you're still single," adds the wife. "But not if you have a family, especially with two growing boys around."

Courtyard

The house is centered around an open-air courtyard littered with river stones and bordered on four sides by sliding glass-and-aluminum panels. The architect did away with the typical stationary panels by going for accordion-type doors.



CLEAN AND CRISP. The spacious living room with an eye-catching ceiling and stark furniture pieces in solid shades. Textures and colors are limited to the area rug made from abaca and shiny ceramic floor.



ALCOVES featuring Lladro figurines by the breakfast nook

THE STAIRWELL leads to a hall with corrugated aluminum ceiling and plant box.

Each panel glides easily with the touch of a finger, says the husband, just before he demonstrated it. Where patches of plain, rough granite around the courtyard end, bleached wood or shiny Chinese granite in gray with a sprinkle of black begins.

The courtyard doubles as a vestibule that extends to the second floor to allow natural light and cross ventilation. Bedrooms are cleverly located at each corner of the second floor to maximize wind flow.

"Since we moved in," says the husband, "we've only used the air con in the master bedroom five or six times. Aside from saving on electricity, natural air helps us sleep more soundly at night."

Curtains have no place in this home where the father has passed on his asthma to his children. Instead of swags of fabric that trap dust, he chose wooden Venetian blinds for the second-floor windows. The ground floor is made up mainly of sliding doors that double as windows.

A pair of aluminum beams hovers on both ends of the open-air courtyard. The husband was supposed to use it to hang a giant mobile for the kids, but he ended up putting a tall potted plant in the middle of the empty space.

The children's playroom, which adjoins the courtyard, can be seen from every part of the house, even from the corridor and family room upstairs. In keeping with the modernist theme, the architect used slabs of concrete framed by sturdy glass below the sliding windows.

"It [playroom] is a constant reminder of the children's presence in the house," says the doting father. "For the meantime, we have chosen this shade of blue for the walls."

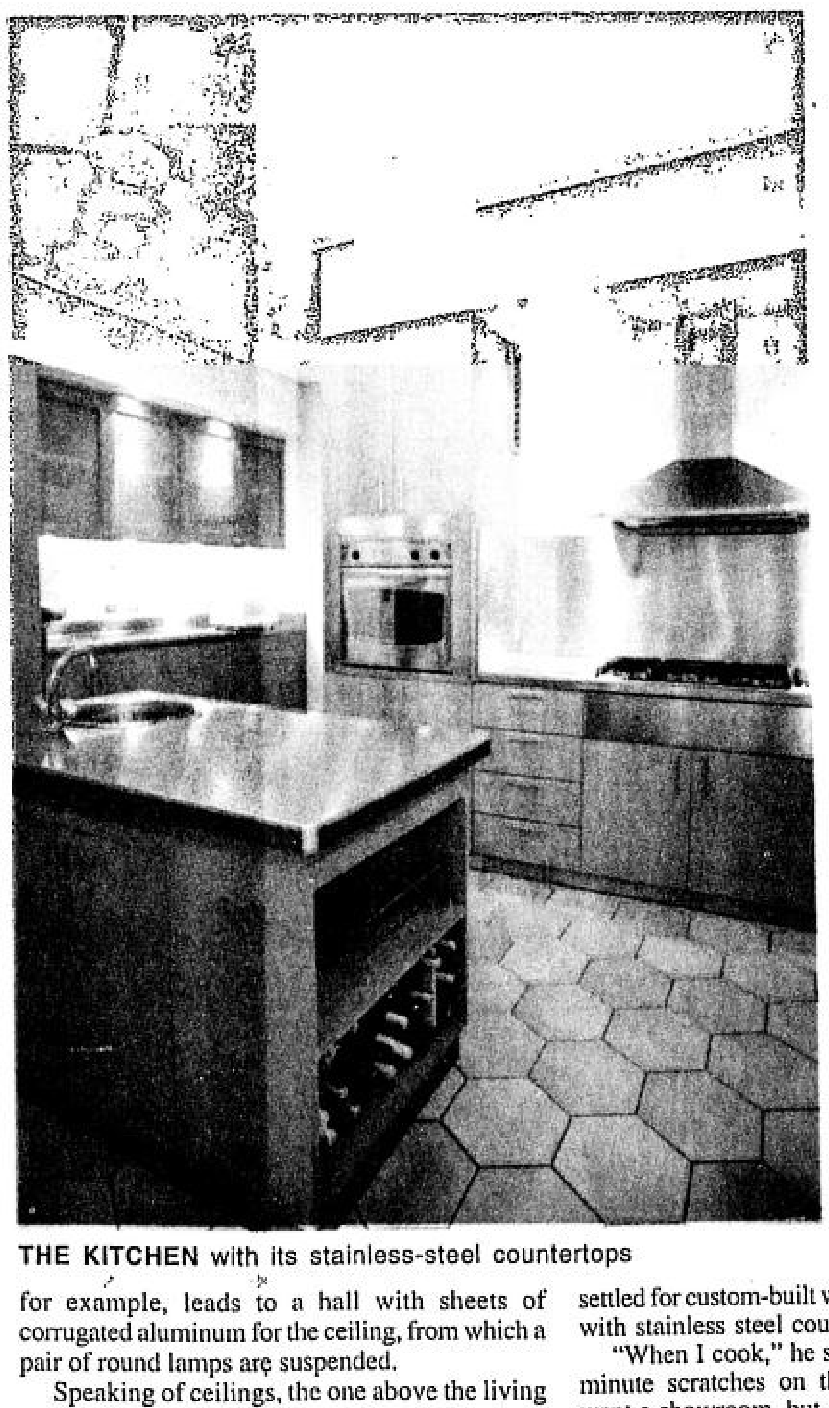
Boys' playground

All over the house are reminders that two boys live here: a yellow rubber duckie on the bathtub's ledge in the master bedroom's bathroom, a mini basketball court in the terrace and a pair of flower-like propellers rotating in the wind in the family room.

The youthful feel extends to the walls of the children's bedrooms—one painted in royal blue, the other in forest green. The guestroom is done in warm ocher, while the master bedroom is splashed in subdued gray.

Even tile accents—there are at least five bathrooms in this house—match the color of a particular bedroom. The husband purposely had so many bathrooms built because Filipinos, he says, love to take long showers.

Certain modernist elements, however, set this home apart from bigger and more lavish dwellings so common in this exclusive enclave. The stairwell, for example, leads to a hall with sheets of corrugated aluminum for the ceiling, from which a pair of round lamps are suspended.



THE KITCHEN with its stainless-steel countertops

A couple's dream home in Ayala-Alabang has received the best compliment from the couple's children: they feel right at home in it

Speaking of ceilings, the one above the living room is replete with eye-catching details: bent panels in sienna are securely fastened on a concave white panel. They serve a practical purpose aside from featuring several cove and pin lights.

"They enhance the area's acoustics," he says. "Thus, the sound coming from the stereo is focused on the living room."

Minimalist kitchen

Since the husband, not the wife, loves to tinker around the kitchen, he placed his minimalist stamp there as well. He would have none of the country look, where dainty tile accents, lacey curtains and bright counter tops are the norm. Rather, he settled for custom-built wooden cabinets combined with stainless steel countertops.

"When I cook," he shares, as he points out to minute scratches on the countertops, "I don't want a showroom, but a heavy-duty kitchen that looks lived in."

Every kitchen utensil and small appliance is neatly stacked inside cabinets. He even had the refrigerator, a Whirlpool, actually, and the oven wrapped in steel plates to conform to the look, which, as a whole, is uncluttered but far from cold.

He faced a minor problem before: What to do with several Lladro figurines given by family and friends to the wife? Such objects, no matter how expensive they are, certainly have no place in the minimalist living room filled with either round,

PUTTING/ p.G7

KIDDIE CORNER. The children's playroom and study area keeps this modern home happy and grounded.

CENTER OF ATTRACTION. An open courtyard doubles as a vestibule to allow natural light and maximize airflow. The children's playroom, straight ahead, can be seen from almost every part of the house. The second-floor corridor is made of concrete, glass and sliding windows.

Putting Filipino soul in a Scandinavian house

(From page G6)

triangular or cylindrical accent pieces.

"The architect took care of it," says the husband, "by having a pair of alcoves built by the breakfast nook. The figurines look perfect there."

The modern look naturally begins outside. Metal beams that support the lanai's greenish polycarbonate roof are painted in automotive acrylic or plain car paint in a silvery shade that matches the color of the family car.

Parts of the façade are painted in white and off-white. The family's plan to build a pool in front of the house and relegate the garden to the side was scrapped because that meant cutting down a lush mango tree that came with the lot.

"I couldn't bare to cut it," he says. "It's one of the few remaining remnants of a sprawling mango orchard that once occupied this village."

So the architect placed the garden in front and worked around the tree by having metal beams fashioned to avoid it. The covered lanai is separated from the driveway by a perimeter wall that follows the curves of a metal beam above.

Breathing roof

The architect was also able to marry form and function in the eaves and gutters, or more specifically the lack of them. Instead of artsy holes, eaves are made of sheets of perforated metal to allow the roof to breathe. He then did away with conventional gutters in favor of so-called "rain handlers," US-made aluminum slats which break down rainwater into droplets.

They're cheaper in the long run since they don't rust and get clogged up by leaves like ordinary gutters. "I was able to save as much as 70 percent," says the husband, who tries to dismiss the notion that people who live in Ayala-Alabang are all filthy rich. "That's one of the reasons it took us some time to complete the house. We had to haggle and look for the cheapest suppliers to be able to build it."

BEDROOM for one of the boys

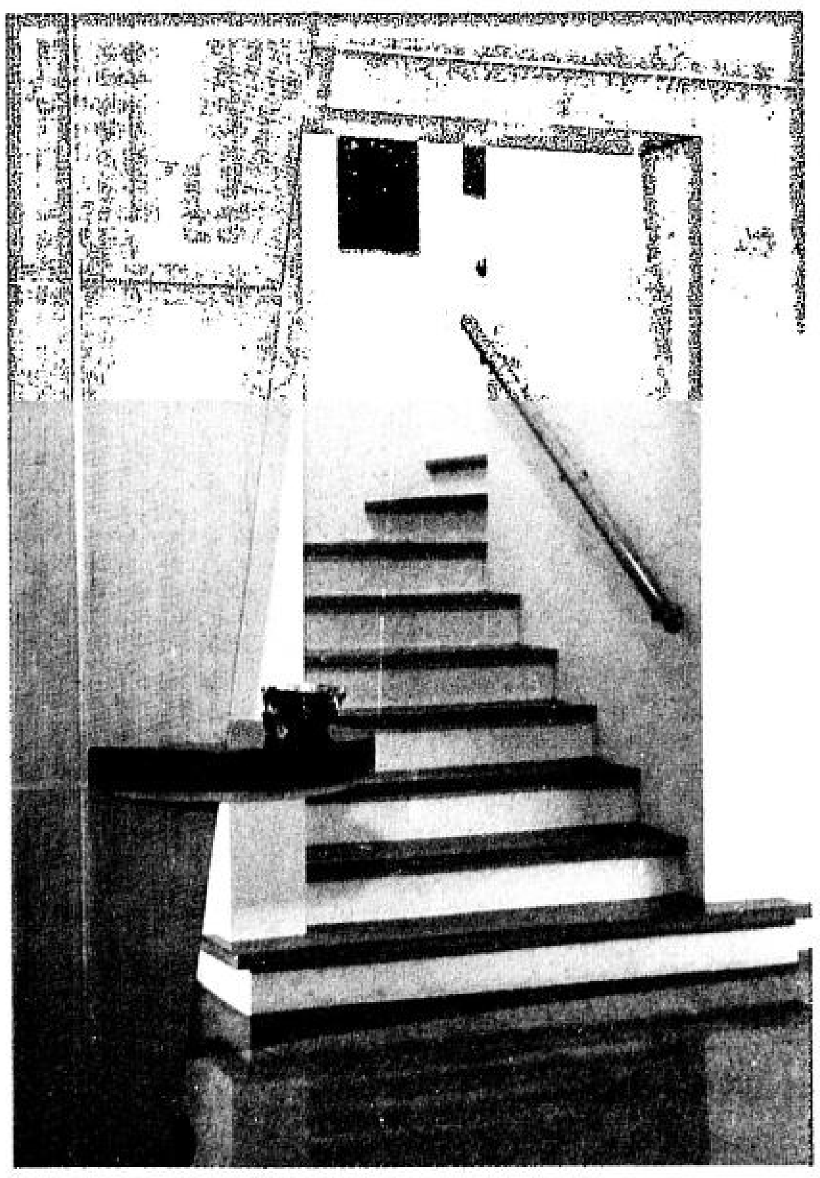
No matter. The house has been making heads turn since they moved in three years ago—a sure sign, no doubt, that the couple has done the right things. Even a jaded priest who came by to bless it couldn't hide his amazement, says the husband.

"Oh, it's like [in] "Star Wars!" the priest, who has probably seen bigger and more fabulous houses, exclaimed.

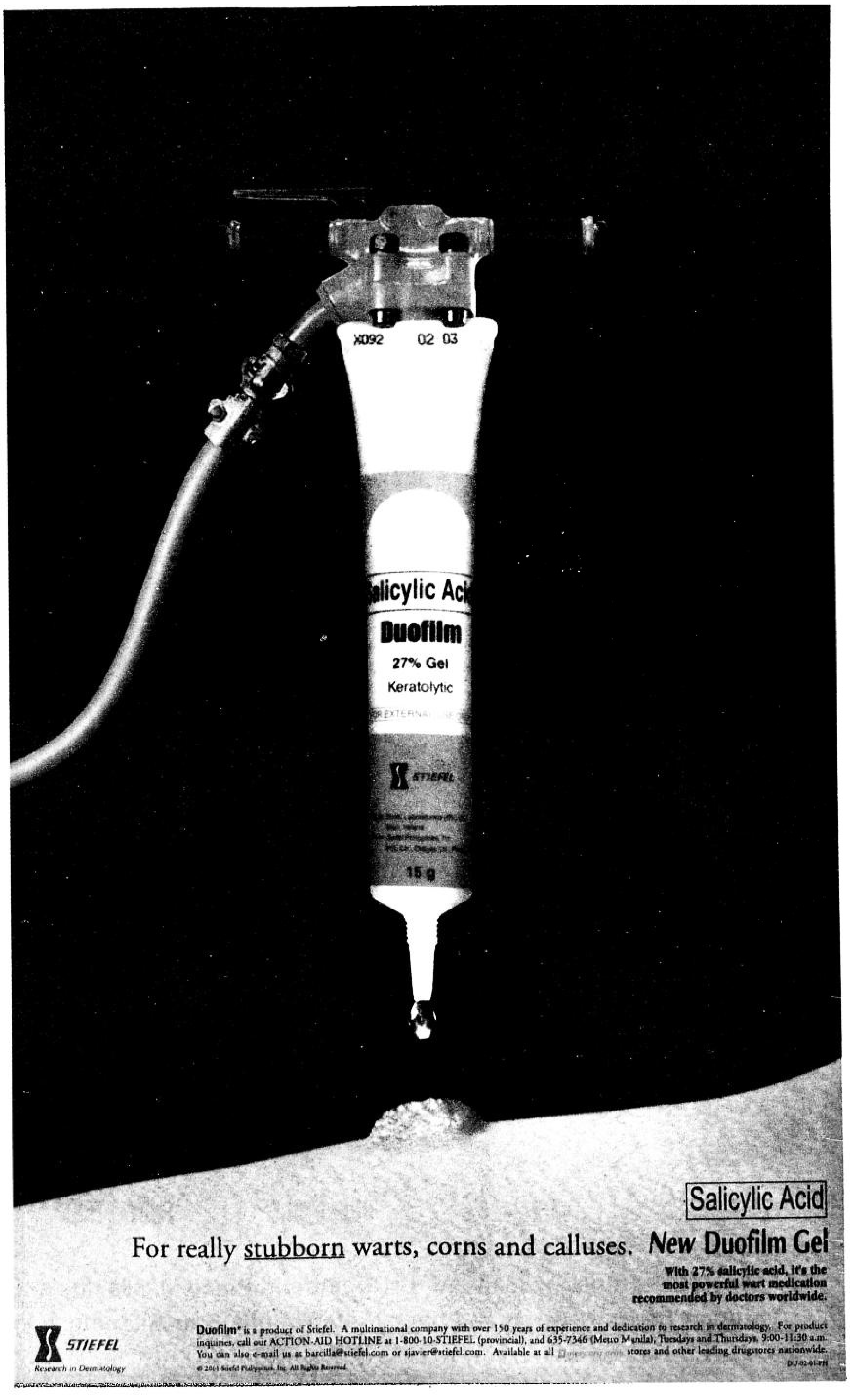
But nothing could be sweeter and more fulfilling than to hear it from their two boys. After years of having lived with their paternal grandparents, it took these kids only two weeks to feel at ease in their new surroundings.

"After I saw the house's effect on the kids," says the husband, who worked for a time in Singapore, "all that hard work the went into it was worth it." This family has finally come home.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



WHITE stairs with bleached wooden steps



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DU-02-01-PH

Cancer survivor is looking for scholarship

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I am a breast cancer survivor. I was diagnosed in 1997 when I still had two years to go in college. The hospitalization and chemotherapy left my family in financial ruin, and I haven't been able to go back to school since then.

The years have passed me by; I've seen my friends graduate and find good jobs. My parents grew old right before my eyes. I have waged countless battles against despair and hopelessness. But I refuse to give up. I have won against cancer of the body. I will not be defeated by cancer of the soul.

I have come to realize that I am called to become a teacher. I have this deep longing to inspire young minds, to help them dream and believe, to teach History or Literature. I'm writing to ask for your help. My family is still too deep in debt to send me back to school. Actually, I dream of studying abroad. Would you know of individuals, corporations or institutions that would be willing to sponsor my college education?

MIZPAH AVATAR

Just keep praying, *hija*. But let me remind you that God answers prayers in three ways. He answers you right away, He makes you wait, or He gives you something better.

Also, reflect on what you really should do. Going abroad will mean facing new problems, learning new ways of day-to-day living and avoiding tension that can bother your mental and physical health. One of my favorite songs goes like this: "The dearest things in life are around you everywhere, right outside your door, why keep reaching for the moon?"

Why not just stay here? However, miracles do happen. If a generous reader offers you financial assistance, the next thing you have to do is to look for the university abroad where you can enroll. You may inquire from the Philippine American Educational Foundation (PAEF) for information. Their address is 10/F Ayala Life FGU Center, 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, or call 812-0919/45, or e-mail mtan@paef. org.ph.

Dear readers, I got clearance to reveal the name and address of Avatar. She is Imelda R. Veloso, of 348 Veloso St., San Juan, MM, tel. 724-4503, e-mail-awit@pinakamaganda.com. You may want to share with her your thoughts and advice.

Correction: For information on going to the US, call 1909-101-0000, and you have to use PLDT, Smart or Piltel. Or just dial the US embassy trunkline, 523-1001, and listen to the tape-recorded answers.

E-mail the author at titadulce@ netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1246 Series of 2001

ABENSON

CITIBANK

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ABENSON is definitely on a roll as it adds two new branches, this time in the bustling Cavite and Laguna area.

Abenson opened at Gen. Trias, Cavite last April 28, 2001 inside Waltermart Building. Caviteños are now enjoying this new appliance shopping destination. City officials, guests and townpeople graced the red letter day. It was indeed a fun-filled day for the Caviteños as Abenson treated them to a motorcade, balloons, food sampling and giveaways. Much more, Abenson held a free raffle for everybody just by visiting the store.

May 16 marked another grand day for Abenson as it opened its 39th branch at Olivares Plaza, Biñan, Laguna. A blessing started the special day and it was opened to the Laguna appliance hoppers later where discounts, premiums and a free raffle surprised them.

Abenson once again fulfilled its mission to be your partner to good life as it moves closer to the Filipino homes with its continuous expansion. With its fresh, bigger and better store concepts, Filipinos are sure to enjoy more of their appliance shopping experience. Hurry! Visit us now!

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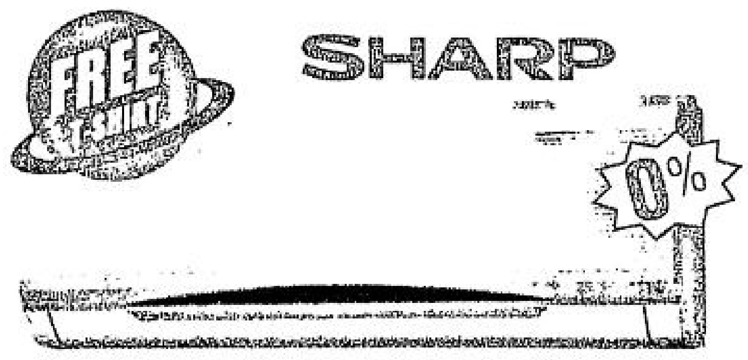
- Equisound
- DVD/Component Video Input Terminal

P3,199.17/mo. (12 mos.)

CASH PRICE: P38,390

SHARP



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CASH PRICE P24,360

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- Clear Screen Images/ No Screen Distortions
- Digital Eye: Optimized Screen Image
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- 105W Power Consumption

CASH PRICE P16,000

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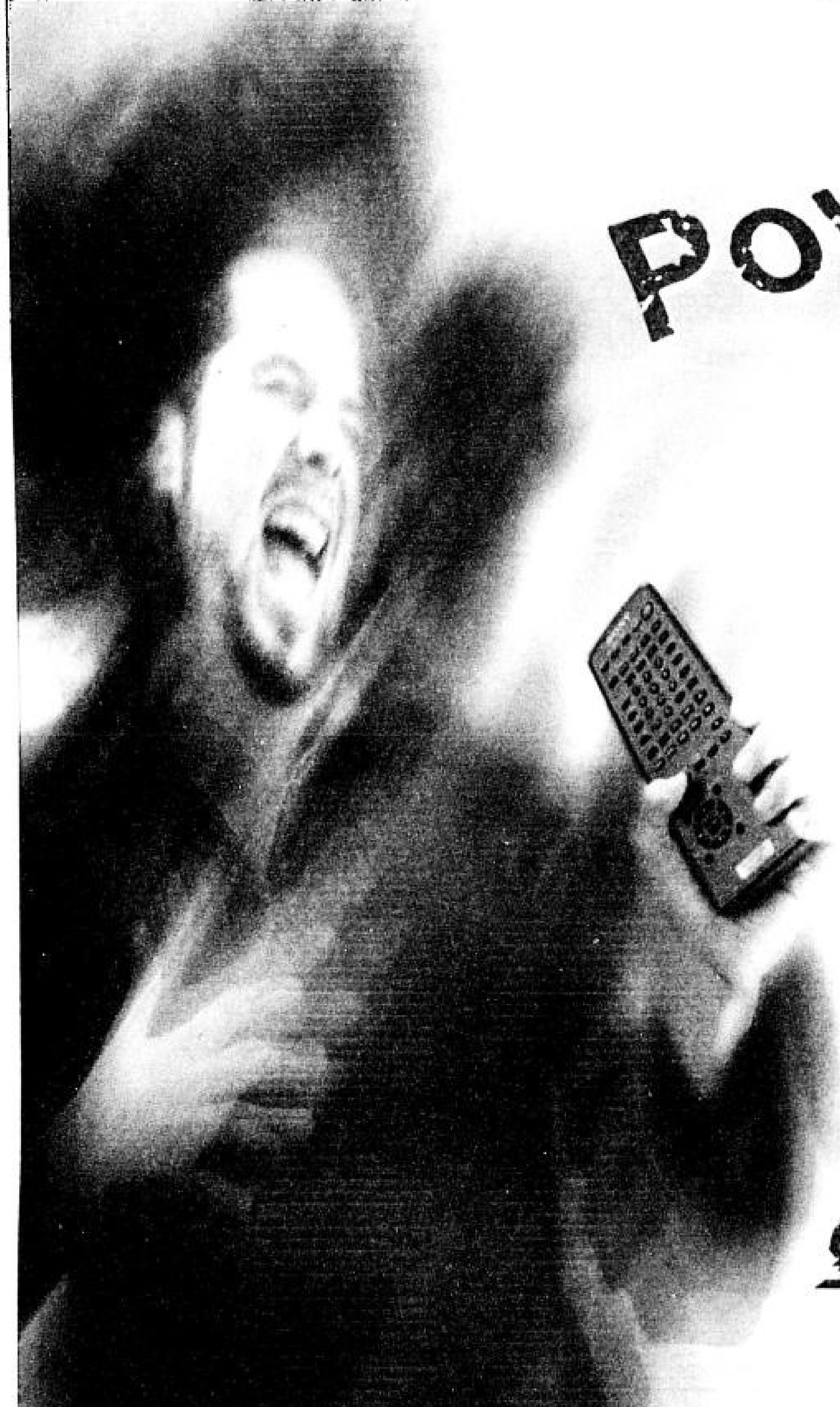
SONY

Power Trip



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And with the Game Sync feature, you can instantly connect then control your game console with the touch of a button. Now, it also has the exclusive Direct AV EQ for easy instant access to equalizer settings for music, movies and even games. All these in an edgier style, more impressive size. Experience the ultimate Power Trip only with the Sony VX Series Hi-Fi.

POWER Sounds Sony!

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- High-Tech Cooling Method
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- 2 separate fruit & vegetable crispers

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P5,750/mo. (6 mos.)

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- Multi-picture on-screen display
- Optical digital output

CASH PRICE P12,990

P2,165/mo. (6 mos.)

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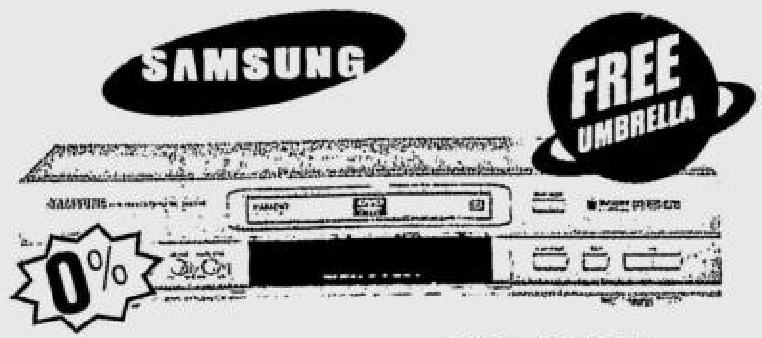

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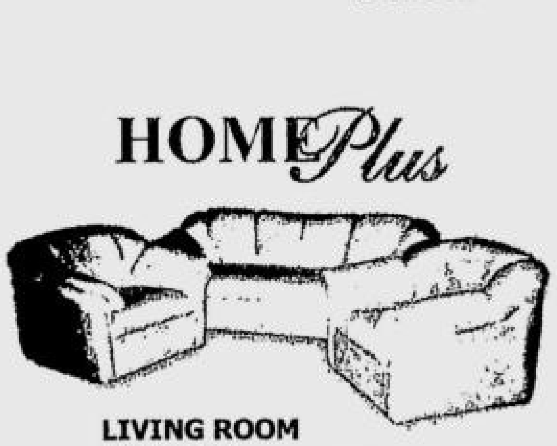

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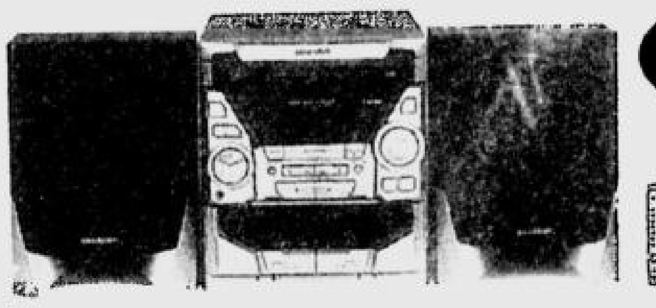

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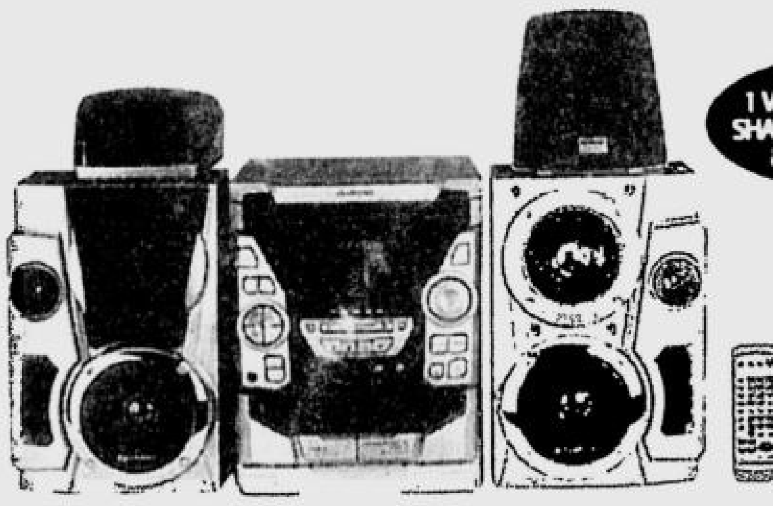
2-Speaker System • 32-track AMPS/ APSS • 0.8 Watt Energy Saving Consumption in stand-by mode.



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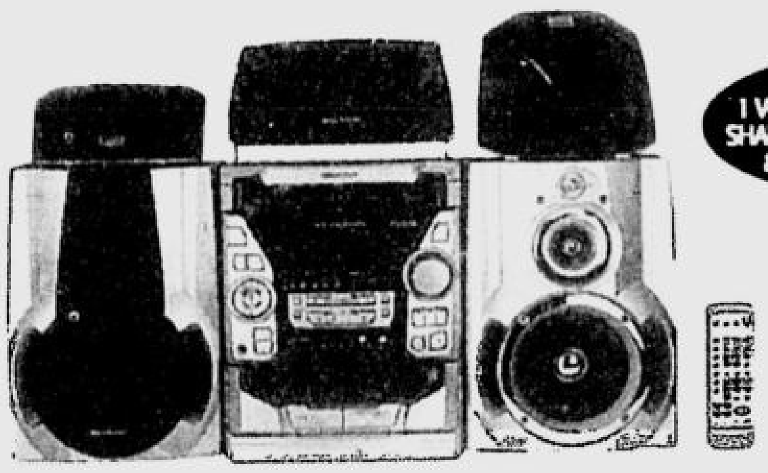

Free
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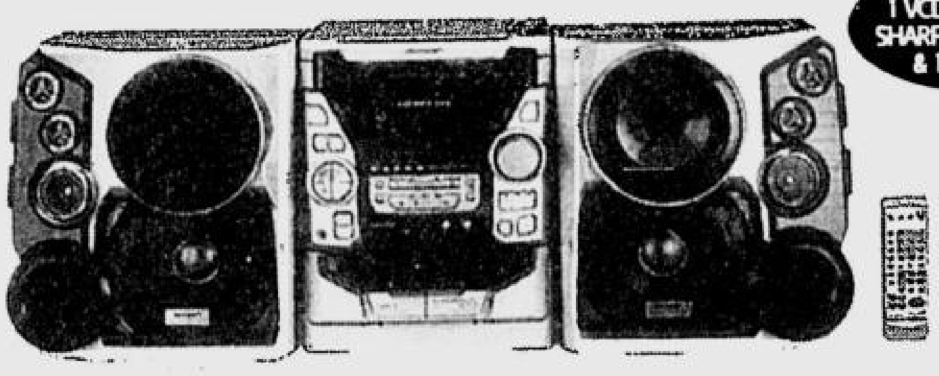
CD-DK2600V 1800W PMPO
Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Processor with 5-Speaker System • 3-way Front Speakers • Karaoke Function • 0.8 Watt Energy Saving Consumption in stand-by mode.



Free
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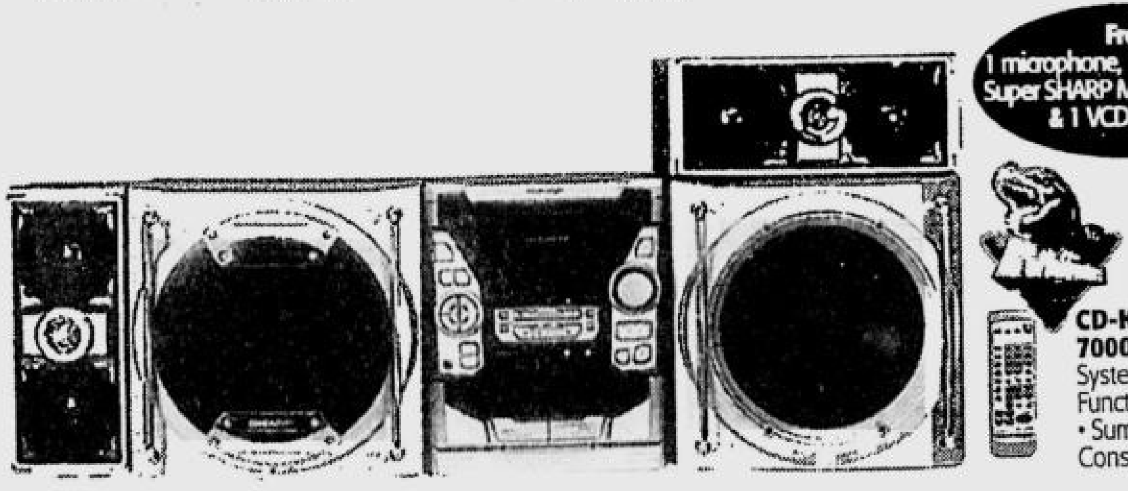

Free
1 microphone, 1 VCD from the Super SHARP Movie Collection & 1 VCD Karaoke

CD-K7000V (MONSTER) 7000W PMPO • 4 Separate Speaker System with 25 cm Woofers• Karaoke Function • Auto retractable volume control • Surround Sound • 0.8 Watt Energy Saving Consumption in stand-by mode.

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WOULDN'T it be great to bring along a good friend whenever you go shopping for your long-yearned-for home appliances, computers, and audio-video home entertainment systems? Your friend would tell you if this item would look great on your home, or if this appliance was indeed reliable, or if this flat TV would be top-of-the-line. You could share ideas, compare prices, and ultimately end up with a better deal. And along the way, you'd have a good time together experiencing the wonders of modern technology.

A shopping experience with a good friend is fun. And that is what Abenson makes its customers feel whenever they enter one of its branches. At Abenson, you'll feel like you're with a good friend, as it provides customers with irresistible value-added offers such as promos, discounts, installment schemes and loyalty programs. Abenson is doing everything it can to make the good life within your reach.

And just like a true friend, Abenson's motto is "Your Partner to Good Life", and it proves its loyalty to customers by providing tangible means to make you and your family closer. It's all about strengthening family bonds by creating an environment for all the members of the family to be together.

Abenson makes the good life possible. Your friend will do all it can to make you and your loved ones happy and live as one. Family gatherings are made special with the time spent in front of the flat television in an airconditioned room to watch the latest blockbuster movie or simply by watching the family's favorite vacation recorded on your video camera.

Humming good music together with your mini component at the living room eases tensions and makes family ties stronger. Dining together with home cooked food from an efficient range or microwave and drinking cool beverages from the refrigerator is a filling experience everyone enjoys.

> Humming good music together with your mini component at the living room eases tensions and makes family ties stronger. Dining together with home cooked food from an efficient range or microwave and drinking cool beverages from the refrigerator is a filling experience everyone enjoys

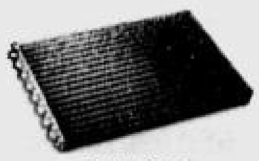
When a true friend sees you happy, it is in itself a fulfilling experience for the friend. Making its customers satisfied with the merchandise they bring home gives Abenson the greatest satisfaction of all. That is the character of a true partner--a true friend.

Camaraderie and partnership exist even in a fast-paced digital era and Abenson keeps both values alive in its offering of quality merchandise. For Abenson, it has been more than just selling ideas and top-of-the-line appliances, it's a family matter. The entire Abenson staff is ready to accommodate you. Just visit the nearest Abenson branch and enjoy your appliance shopping experience.

It's all within your reach with Abenson, Your Partner to Good Life. Abenson has 39 branches in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

To fight global warming, the people of the world agree on one thing.

With all the best features to give you years of trouble-free, rust-free, quiet and economical cooling, LG aircons only give you cool comfort, but peace of mind as well. That's why it comes as no surprise that LG aircon is preferred in 34 countries worldwide, selling over 4 million units in year 2000 alone. So why not try an LG aircon? Four million people can't be wrong.



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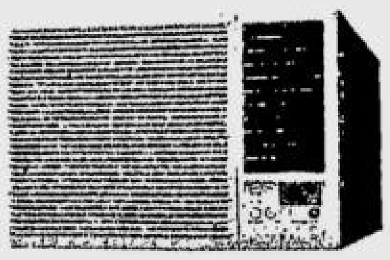

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Strike a balance with Whirlpool

HOME appliances consume a big chunk of a household's overall expenditures, let alone spending on appliances that do not synchronize with today's bustling lifestyle. This dilemma requires every homemaker to strike a balance between tight financial resources and how far these can take her in getting the best out of the various household equipment available in the market.

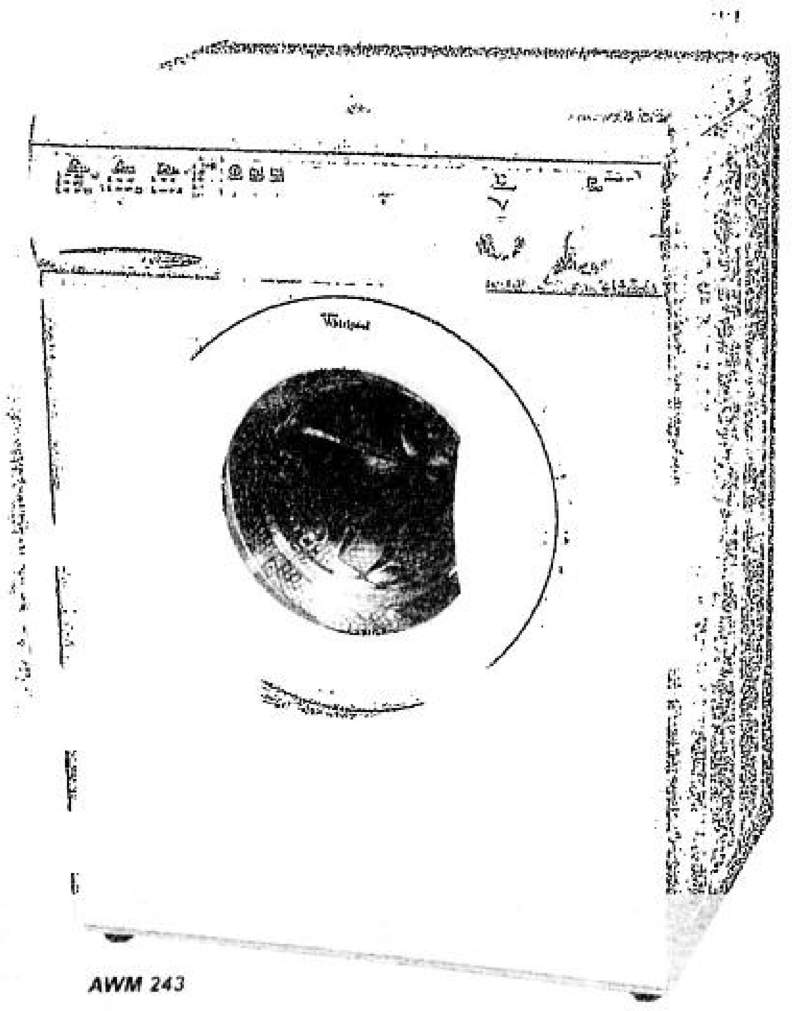
Whirlpool, a world-class forerunner in the appliance market, unceasingly creates products that strike at the heart of this delicate balance. Like the Whirlpool AWM 243 Washer.

With a front-loading feature, the AWM 243 Fully Automatic Washer gives ultra-ease that also comes with a child safety lock for utmost security. Its revolutionary built-in heater and adjustable temperature control allows you a choice between warm and cold water to suit the type of fabric to be washed. This way, each piece of clothing undergoes a customized wash that ensures thorough cleaning and fabric care. What's more, it is also installed with a specialized dispenser for detergent, fabric softener, and bleach, so you can leave the wash to an effective cleaning all on its own.

Striking a balance for your household convenience has never been so easy. With Whirlpool home appliances, you simply get the best of both worlds. Visit all Abenson's outlets today and discover the Whirlpool balance.

Whirlpool HOME APPLIANCES

BRINGS QUALITY TO LIFE



AWM 243

The Whirlpool Washer Balances a Whirlpool woman's life like magic.

Balance. This is what a Whirlpool woman wants. Between being an active career woman and a busy homemaker, this seems almost impossible. But with Whirlpool's line of world-class home partners, balance happens in the Whirlpool woman's life like magic. Such are the features of the ***fully-automatic*** Whirlpool washers, like the ***AWM 243***, that makes washing clothes so much easier. With a ***front loading*** feature for ultra-ease that also comes with a ***child safety lock*** for utmost security. Plus a revolutionary ***built-in heater*** and an ***adjustable temperature control***, so water can be set to hot or cold, depending on the type of fabric to be washed. And with a ***specialized dispenser for detergent, fabric softener, and bleach***, laundry can be left in the washer for an effective cleaning all on its own. That's Whirlpool convenience for you!

The ***Whirlpool AWM 243 Washer*** and the Whirlpool woman. Partners that truly bring magic into the home.

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AWZ 126

AWM 243

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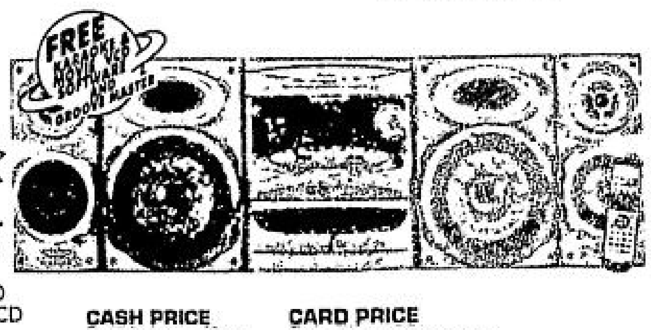

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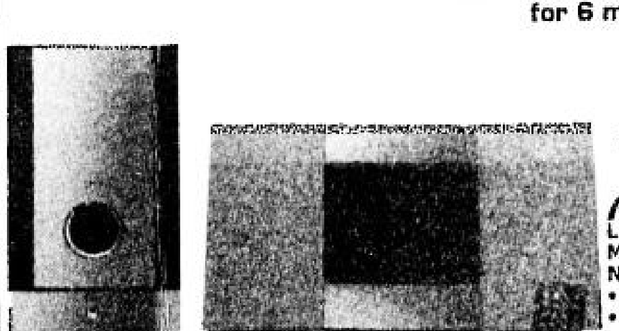

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- CD Player w/ motion detecting powered doors

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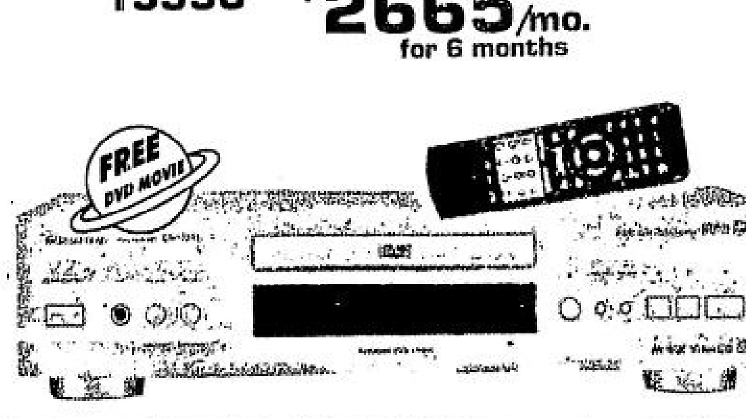

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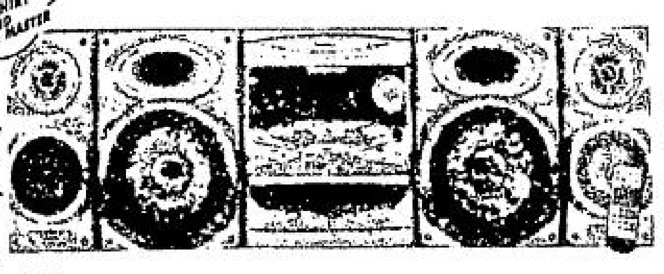

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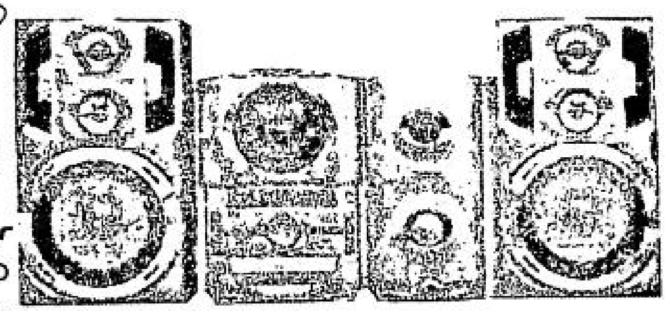

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- Futuristic VCD/CD Mini Component

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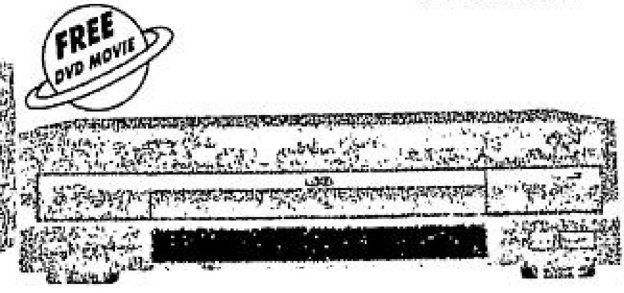

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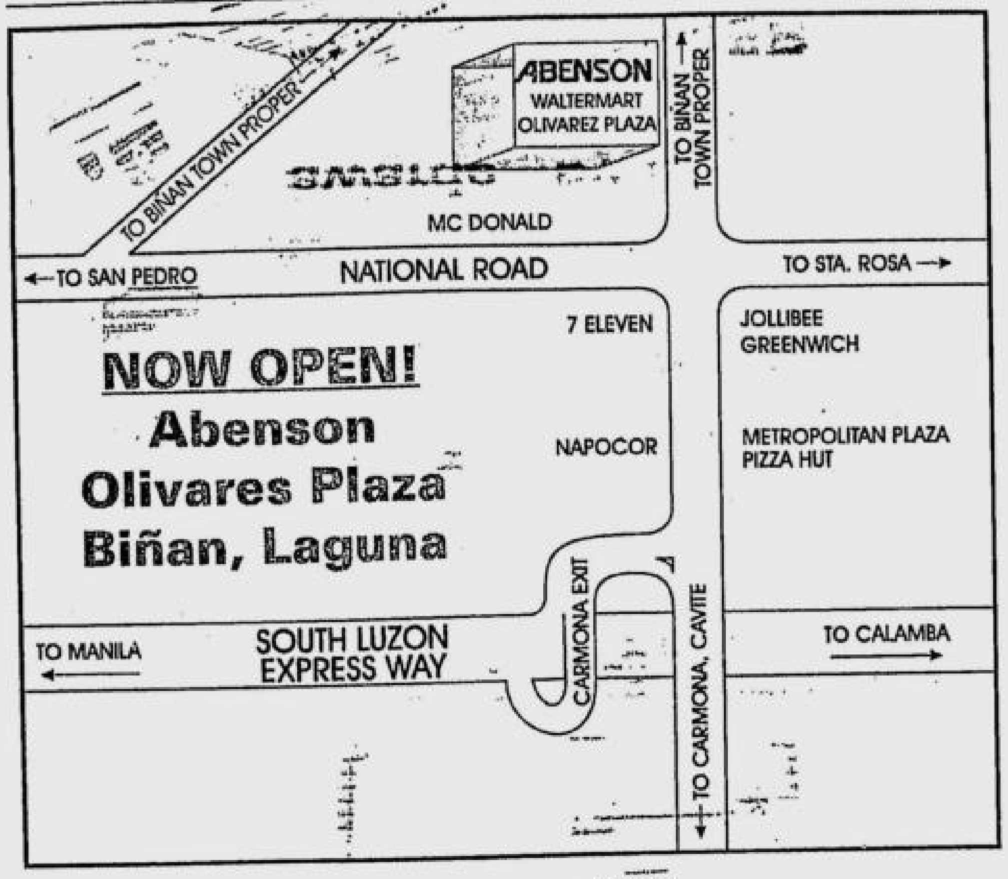
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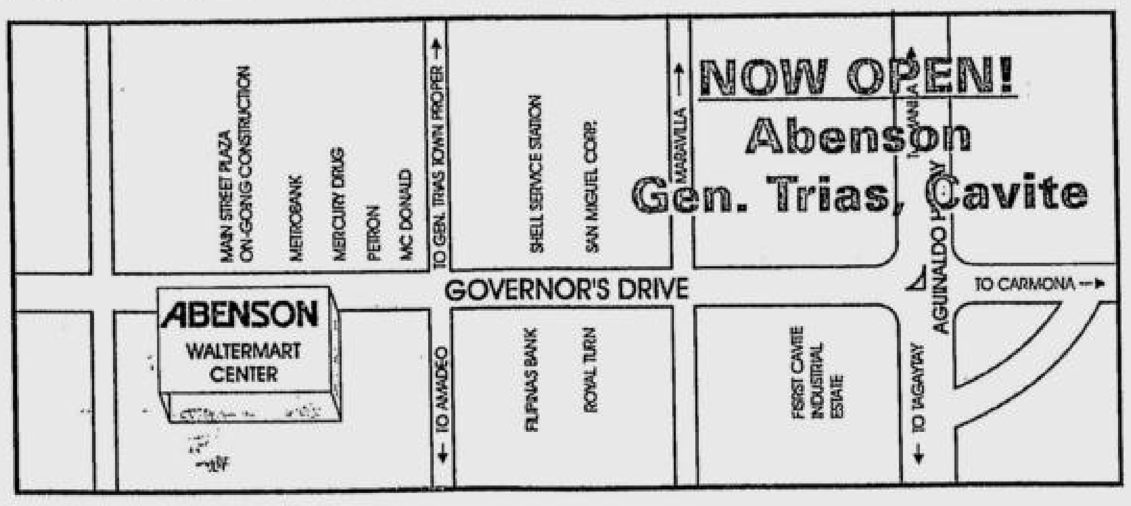
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